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A legend named Edson Arantes do Nascimento dies at the age of 82

- “Mon Cher Collaborateur” – Coubertin’s female editor
- Death Cushions the blow – the tragic story of a Marathon champion
- Sapporo 72 – construction problems at Mount Eniwa
- Cruise Control – Olympic television in the modern era
- Paris 2024 – the Look



DR. MARIIA BULATOVA JOINS ISOH EXECUTIVE BOARD

It is with great pleasure that we announce to members and friends of ISOH and the study of Olympic History that Mariia Bulatova will be joining our Executive Board.

Mariia is a proven specialist with over 300 publications to her name, including 30 fundamental books on the history of the Olympic movement, Olympic sport, and Olympic education.

Our pleasure is even greater because Mariia becomes the first woman in ISOH history to be appointed to the Executive Board. As Board member Philip Barker has now accepted the new role as Editor-in-Chief for the JOH, his place becomes vacant. Accordingly, the Board unanimously agreed that the person who had received the most votes amongst those not elected in the 2020 elections should be invited to fill the position for the remainder of the 2020-2024 term. That person is Mariia. The Board is delighted to welcome her with her academic interests in the history of the Olympic movement, the social and cultural aspects of the Olympic Games, and Olympic education.

CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED

Paris 2024 is fast approaching and we want to reflect as much of the Olympic history of the World as possible. Please consider writing something for the journal. Please do not worry if English is not your mother tongue, we can offer guidance on this.

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Every effort will be made to publish contributions as fully as possible but the editorial term reserves the right to edit any contribution for reasons of space. The final decision rests with the editor.



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Pelé – a smile for eternity

By Christian Wacker

Pelé was acknowledged as the footballer and sportsman of the 20th century. In almost every newspaper and media tribute around the world after his death on 29 December 2022.

He brought everything with him and experienced everything to make a good story for posterity. He came from humble beginnings but with a passion for kicking a ball.

With the seleção, Brazil's national team, he won the World Cup three times.

He also won everything else there was to win in the game with his club FC Santos.

Then he became a superstar figurehead with the New York Cosmos, and later a messenger of sport and even a sports minister.

And yet, in the end he is most closely identified with a number. "10!" He was "the" 10. He transformed an ordinary shirt number into the position on the field par excellence. Whoever was allowed to wear the 10 after Pelé was considered ennobled.

Pelé was an emotional player, and he was also an emotional person. He was an all-rounder in football, just like Ferenc Puskás or Johan Cruyff, always with his eye on the goal.

In life off the pitch, he did not succeed in everything.

His family saga is turbulent with great affection towards his companions and his children, but also with the rejection of illegitimate children.

Much of Pelé's playing career had been during the dark period of the Brazilian military dictatorship, and some have blamed him for not speaking out strongly against it.

Pelé had a lot in common with the current president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

He stood by his side when Rio de Janeiro was chosen as the venue for the 2016 Olympic Games in Copenhagen on 2 October 2009. Nawal El Moutawakel of Morocco headed the 10-member International Olympic Committee (IOC) Evaluation Commission for those Games.

The commission made on-site inspections in the second quarter of 2009, during which time Pelé charmed his way onto the bid committee. Pelé, always with a smile on his face, that seemed eternally young said simply: "I'm not representing Rio de Janeiro but Bra-



Pelé with IOC member Nawal El Moutawakel during Rio's bid for the 2016 Olympics

Picture Bruno Domingos, Reuters/Alamy Stock Photo

zil. I'm not representing Brazil but the whole of South America." (*Irish Examiner*, 21st Aug 2008)

"With Pelé's passing, the world has lost a great sporting icon," IOC president Dr Thomas Bach said. "As I could experience myself, he was a true believer in the Olympic values and a proud carrier of the Olympic flame. It was a privilege to present the Olympic Order to him." (*Agence France Presse*, 29th Dec 2022). Pelé was named athlete of the century by the IOC in 1999, following a vote of the National Olympic Committees and was honoured with the Olympic Order, the Olympic Movement's highest award, in 2016.

Pelé never played at the Olympic Games, but he was an Olympic Torch Bearer when it visited in Brazil in 2004.

On 13th June 2004, the start of day 10 of the Athens 2004 international Olympic Torch Relay, he carried the Olympic Flame from the Maracanã Stadium in Rio de Janeiro.

It is probably that Pelé would have been more involved in 2016 had his health allowed it. Unfortunately, he was unable to complete an official leg of the Relay, but when it reached the town of Santos on 22nd July 2016, the torch was passed to the "king of football" himself at the Pelé Museum. He appeared on the balcony, displaying his Medal of the Olympic Order from the IOC. "There will only be one Pelé, just as there has only been one Frank Sinatra or one Michelangelo." (Pelé on Pelé: *tagesspiegel.de*. 23th Oct 2015)



“Mon cher collaborateur” –

Pierre de Coubertin, George Hohrod and the editor Juliette Adam

By Natalia Camps Y Wilant

In the Olympic Art Competitions held at the 1912 Olympic Games, Pierre de Coubertin famously won a gold medal in the literature discipline under the pseudonym George Hohrod and M. Eschbach.

What is less well known is that he had already used the same pseudonym a decade before in his 1902 book “Roman d’un Rallié”.

Recent research has uncovered that Coubertin had previously serialized this work in the well-known Parisian journal *La Nouvelle Revue*. What makes this discovery more interesting is that the editor was a woman.

Her name was Juliette Adam and she was an outstanding personality in her time, knowing how to play several roles, such as editor and Salonnière (Martin-Fugier, 2003).

Coubertin was to be a faithful contributor to her publications for several years and also contributed fictional works.

Their correspondence continued after their collaboration to the extent that Coubertin wrote of their “old friendship” in 1909.

Adam was therefore an interesting personality in Pierre de Coubertin’s circle of friends and makes a contribution to research about the Baron’s network (Camps Y Wilant, 2021; Wassong & Müller, 2007).



Juliette Adam

Picture JOH Archive

Hohrod, the book “Roman d’un rallié” and the journal “La Nouvelle Revue”

In 1912, art competitions were introduced to the Olympic Games.

The gold medal for literature is listed as German writers Georges Hohrod and Martin Eschbach.¹

It was awarded for “Ode au Sport” which praised the different facets of sport in nine verses.

Although the two names listed were ostensibly from Germany it was soon discovered that they were a pseudonym for Coubertin himself.

Olympic historians Norbert Müller and Jean Durry discovered that it makes reference to two small vil-

lages in Alsace near Luttenbach, the home town of his wife, Marie Rothan.²

Durry also noted that Coubertin used one of the names many years before in a book.³

The book was “Roman d’un rallié” and tells the story of a young French aristocrat Etienne de Crusséne, who travels to the United States, where he reflects on daily life experiences such as the political system and religious practices. Early on, Etienne starts to compare French to the American systems and enlances his thoughts about politics, religion and the difference



Coubertin pictured at the time he wrote for Juliette Adam's journals

Picture © International Olympic Committee



Juliette Adam

Picture Osterwalder Archive

between France (the old world) and the US (the new world). Further, the young gentleman has a crush on Mary Herbertson, the daughter of an army general and explains his feelings for her, which adds a romantic aspect to the content.

Before it appeared in book form, the story had been serialised in "La Nouvelle Revue". Between February and April, it appeared in five parts, each part containing between 20 to 30 pages.⁴

Durry suggests that the story may also have appeared in the *Revue Bleue* of 1898.⁵

It is unlikely that the exact text would be published in two journals simultaneously. The supporting source material only exists for *La Nouvelle Revue* and, consequently, makes a stronger case.⁶

Regardless of this contradiction, it has to be emphasized that Coubertin had been publishing for almost a decade.

His first article had appeared in 1886. Furthermore, he contributed to foreign periodicals early on, for example, *The American Monthly Review of Reviews*, *The Century Magazine* and *Harper's Weekly* between 1894 and 1896.⁷

Although the "rallie" project was one among many, the "place" of publication, the journal *La Nouvelle Revue*, adds a particular emphasis to the discovery.

The female editor Juliette Adam

Juliette Adam was born in 1836.

She was from a surgeon's household, very interested in politics, and recounted her childhood and youth in a book published in her 60s.⁸

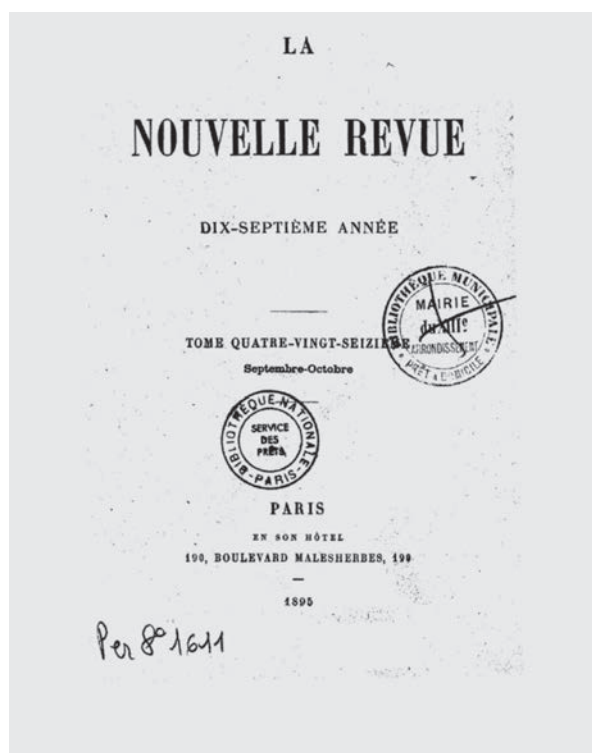
In 1852, she married the lawyer Alexis La Messine (1821–1867). Her parents advised her to "work, work and become somebody. There is no other way for a woman to conquer her freedom than to affirm her personality".⁹

Moreover, as Juliette's marital relationship proved unhappy, she found "peace" in writing. She employed different pseudonyms, such as Juliette Lamber, La Messine or de la Messine or Paul Vasili.

Her first book *Idées antiproudhoniennes sur l'amour, la femme et le mariage* appeared in 1858, when she was 22.¹⁰

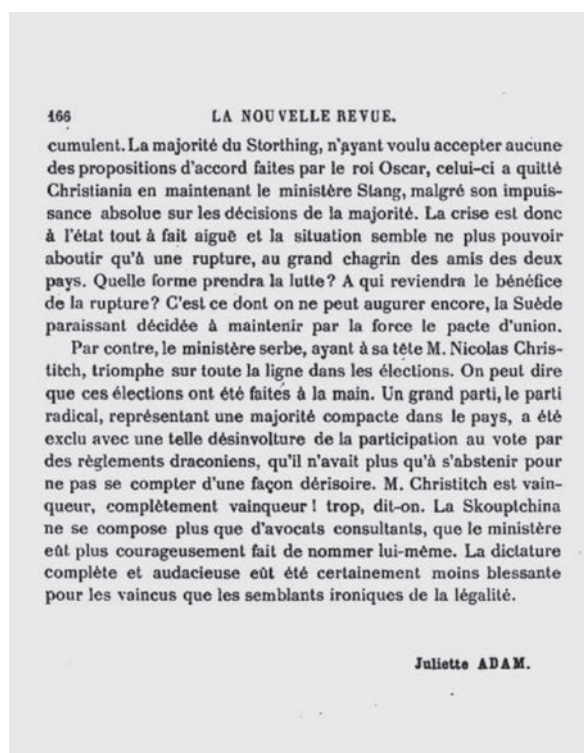
Adam discussed the opinion of women being inferior to men and argued against Proudhon's view.

As a member of Parisian society, she had to familiarize herself with a woman's tasks, and, therefore, Marie d'Agoult (1805–1879) helped Juliette transform into a "dame". She introduced her to the traditions and rules of the salon, one of which was to invite some friends, "twenty men and five women".¹¹ On a Monday in 1866, Juliette held her first salon in the rue de Rivoli.¹²



Title page of La Nouvelle Revue in 1899

Picture Author's Archive



A page from La Nouvelle Revue edited by Adam in 1899

Picture Author's Archive

Very soon, the salons of these two women started to compete with each other, leading to their friendship's end.¹³

One year after her first husband died in 1867, she married Edmond Adam, whom she loved deeply, and the couple moved to the boulevard Poissonnière.¹⁴

Her second husband's network added to the success of her salon, which "started to play an important role in French politics".¹⁵ Among her regular guests were influential men, such as Pierre Loti et Jean Aicard, the Marquis the Polignac and Prince Bibesco, as well as Félix Faure and Leon Gambetta, a friend of Edmond Adam.¹⁶ This "republican leader" built alliances; the Salonnière's pieces of advice shaped the approachable attitude of the republicans towards other groups, such as army generals, diplomats, bankers and industrialists.¹⁷ According to the French historian Fugier-Martin, the purpose of Adam's salon was to become "le centre d'union nécessaire". Therefore, the couple became known as the so-called "abstentionnistes".¹⁸ For the Italian researcher D'Agostini, Madame Adam was "the muse of the third republic" who understood Gambetta was "the ideal man to guide the young generation of republicans and to accomplish the construction of a republic".¹⁹ Further, he seemed to take up an observation that was made by one of Adam's contemporaries:

"As the mistress of a leading political salon, as the founder and editor for twenty years of an influential fortnightly magazine, La Nouvelle Revue, as for many years the intimate friend of Gambetta, of Thiers, of other French ministers, of the representatives of foreign powers and [...] eminent French writers as George Sand, [...], Pierre Loti, [...], she has not only kept her finger on the pulse of her great nation, but she has to some extent modulated its heart-beats".²⁰

When her husband Edmond died in 1877, she thought about starting a new life with Gambetta, with whom she had become very close after all the years. Nevertheless, as he could not stop his affairs with other women, Juliette finally allied herself with Henri Rochefort, Gambetta's most prominent opponent.²¹ The fact that most of her guests were republicans gave Juliette Adam another advantage.

Most of them were not married, and, therefore, she did not have to fear their wives' competitive salons. Adam's salons were also held outside Paris, for example, at her house in Gif-sur-Yvette and in her villa at Bryères near Golfe-Juan at the coast, at which George Sand was a regular guest.²²

The facts presented so far demonstrate how the role of "Salonnière" enabled Adam to have her finger on the pulse of political issues and give her the opportunity to influence them through her advice.

However, when the political regime consolidated, her salon lost its importance as a meeting facility, and Adam sought new paths.

Printed publications had become an important way of communicating political topics.

This persuaded her to step into the editorial world, publishing her own journal.²³

On 1 October 1879, two years after her second husband's death, Adam founded her journal.

Its purpose was to serve "as a platform for the republicans" and compete with *La Revue des Deux Mondes* by Charles Buloz, which aimed at the "Orleanists".²⁴ Pierre de Coubertin saw Adam's "platform" as the right place to articulate his ideas.

D'Agostini draws the perfect parallel between hosting a salon and editing a journal:

"The management of a large magazine is, moreover, not so different from the management of a salon. The editor, like the salon hostess, has a network of collaborators whom she regularly invites to visit the pages of her magazine. She thus has the opportunity to launch a few names and build a few literary careers".²⁵

La Nouvelle Revue was published for the first time in 1879. It immediately had to compete in a crowded Parisian press landscape. Her first office was on the ground floor of her house, just below the salon floor. The journal became an "elongation of her salon" because her readers and article contributors were her former guests.²⁶ Some years later, she moved her editorial to the boulevard Malherbes and gave an opening party at the new premises on 20 February 1887.²⁷

Pierre de Coubertin as contributor to Adam's journal

La Nouvelle Revue was a literary-political magazine that discussed the topic of international relations. Accordingly, Coubertin's *Roman d'un rallie* series was of interest to her readers when it appeared in 1899, as mentioned above.

A closer look into the list of the Baron's writings reveals that he wrote for *La Nouvelle Revue* before. Between February and April of 1896, he submitted a series of four texts titled "L'Evolution Française sous la Troisième République" describing the political developments in his country, which was in line with Adam's editorial focus.²⁸

During the early part of the year, Coubertin was busy with the Olympic Games in Athens but resumed his activity for Adam's journal in October, contributing a text about the barefoot runners.²⁹ This article marked the starting point of his main topic for the year 1897 – the United States. In December, he started the series

about the "Formation of the United States", describing the "life in the colonies", followed by "foreign influences and national ambitions" in February of the following year. One month later, he uncovered "a historical lie", ending with a discussion of "the upsurge of religion" in July.³⁰ These articles were reprinted in a book *Souvenirs d'Amérique et de Grèce*, also published in 1897.³¹ Besides Coubertin's American focus, he wrote an article about the Hungarian writer Sigismond de Justh, published in September. In all these articles helped the international focus of Adam's journal.

In 1898, Coubertin seemed to have stopped contributing to Adam's journal, as no evidence could be found. However, the following February, he was back with the "Roman d'un rallie" serial.³² In parallel to the second part of the serial, the journal published Coubertin's article "l'urgente réforme".³³

The analysis showed that Coubertin's contributions moved their shared interest in foreign politics forward. He wrote articles commenting on politics and society, sometimes varying these topics with a fictional story. The publication of the *Roman d'un rallie* would seem to have been the final project of their collaboration as there is no evidence that Coubertin wrote anything further for Adam's journal.

Instead, a piece by Coubertin appeared in the May issue of *Revue des Deux Mondes*.

This was a journal which gave a platform to Orleanists and that one that Adam did not support.

This may have been the reason that Coubertin's contributions to Adam's journal came to an end but there is no evidence to support this.

A recent research project undertaken with ISOH member George Hirthler suggests that their correspondence continued, even though the business relationship between the two had ceased.³⁴

An analysis of the correspondence held at the Olympic Studies Centre in Lausanne proves that their contact continued.³⁵ Adam wrote 18 letters to Coubertin, most undated and not continuous. These enabled us to draw the first sketch of their ongoing connection.

In her earliest letter, dated June 7, 1889, Adam thanked Coubertin for a book he had sent.

She addressed the Baron formally as "monsieur" and praised the "belle form" of his writing.

It can be assumed that Coubertin kept on sending her articles because, in 1895, a year before Coubertin's first article was published in *La Nouvelle Revue*, she judged one of his articles as "charmant" and, consequently, suggested that Coubertin sends her two pages each month.

By April, Adam had changed her salutation from "cher monsieur" in January to "ma cher collaborateur", which can be considered a starting point for their collaboration.



A statue of Baron Pierre de Coubertin as a young man stands at the entrance of Olympic House

Picture JOH Archive

In July 1896, Adam and Coubertin corresponded about the “barefoot” article published in October. Their letters also included personal details.

In June, Adam congratulated sent good wishes to Coubertin and his wife after the birth of their son Jacques. In 1909, Adam sent congratulations on the publication of his latest book.

In May 1914, she was in poor health and had to refuse Coubertin’s invitation to an event.

She began her letter “Mon cher President”.

This allows us to assume that it was an Olympic undertaking that she could not attend.

It seems most likely that this was the 1914 Olympic congress organized in the Sorbonne to celebrate the 20th founding anniversary of the Olympic movement.³⁶ The last of the preserved letters dates from 1927.

In these Adam addressed Coubertin as “mon cher ami” and wrote about the events she organized at her estate in Gif-sur-Yvette.

Unfortunately, we do not know how Coubertin replied to her as his letters have not yet come to light.

There is one important piece of evidence to suggest that both highly appreciated their connection.

Coubertin commented on their mutual friendship in the book *Une campagne de vingt-et-un ans*.³⁷

He wrote that Adam brought him in contact with Jean Aicard, the Baron emphasised that his relationship was an “old friendship”.

The sources researched so far demonstrate two things. First, their connection developed from a business relationship into a friendship. And second, Juliette Adam helped Pierre de Coubertin with his network building because she put him in contact with the men she knew from her salons.

Juliette Adam died in 1936 one year before the Baron, bringing this special friendship came to an end.

Summary

This paper started out with Pierre de Coubertin’s use of a pseudonym and sketched a connection between him and Juliette Adam, a woman 27 years his senior who was both a Salonnière and magazine publisher. Their shared interest in political topics, particularly foreign politics, brought them together. Coubertin contributed his ideas in numerous articles to her journal. Therefore, *La Nouvelle Revue* was a platform where Coubertin could articulate his ideas.

It is important to emphasize that it was due to her double role as editor and Salonnière that made Adam an essential and influential “participant” in the world of politics.

Unfortunately, the evidence so far uncovered do not help to illuminate how their connection came about. Nor do they reveal whether Coubertin played any role in her salons or even if he attended meetings.

However, the paper described Adam's powerful position, and consequently, it can be assumed that her salons created encounters between her guests to discuss their ideas with each other.

There remains scope for further research because personalities such as the Marquis de Polignac and Prince Bibesco, both members of the International Olympic Committee, are also mentioned.

In sum, this paper contributes to the research about the network of Pierre de Coubertin, introducing a new female "member" with an impressive career.³⁸ In addition, it sketched their amicable connection evident in their correspondence.

- 1 The Olympic Art Competitions took place in the disciplines of painting, sculpture, architecture, literature and music. Organized between 1912 and 1948 and suspended during the two world wars. For more information concerning the history and the concept of the Olympic Art Competitions, see Natalia Camps Y Wilant, When art was an Olympic discipline: the Fine Art Salon as a possible model
- 2 Norbert Müller and Christian Wacker, *Coubertin et les Arts* (Lausanne: Comité International Pierre de Coubertin, 2008); Müller (2000) *Olympism – Selected writings*, 629–30; Jean Durry, "Hohrod and Eschbach – a mystery finally solved," *Olympic Review*, Vol. XXVI, 32 (2000), 26–29.
- 3 Jean Durry, 26–9; Pierre de Coubertin, *Roman d'un rallie* [Auxerre: A. Lanier, 1902]. The roman is also printed in Norbert Müller and Otto Schantz, *Pierre de Coubertin (1863–1937) – oeuvres complètes*, CD-Rom (2013).
- 4 Pierre de Coubertin, *Le roman d'un rallie*, I: 21e année, tome LXVI, 15 février (1899), 577–601; Pierre de Coubertin, *Le roman d'un rallie*, II: 21e année, tome LXVII, 1er mars (1899), 44–68; Pierre de Coubertin, *Le roman d'un rallie*, III: 21e année, tome LXVII, 15 mars (1899), 222–247; Pierre de Coubertin, *Le roman d'un rallie*, IV: 21e année, tome LXVII, 1er avril (1899), 452–482; Pierre de Coubertin, *Le roman d'un rallie*, V: 21e année, tome LXVII, 15 avril (1899), 650–684;
- 5 The *Revue politique et littéraire: Revue Bleue* was a Parisian journal founded by Eugène Yung in 1871.
- 6 Durry does not provide supporting evidence for his statement. However, the analysis of the issues of the *Revue Bleue* from 1898 unveiled that Pierre de Coubertin wrote an article entitled "nos lycées", which was published on June 4 and 25, as well as on July 2 and 9, 1898.
- 7 Stephan Wassong, *Pierre de Coubertin's American Studies and Their Importance for the Analysis of His Early Educational Campaign* (Würzburg: Ergon, 2002), 13.
- 8 Juliette Adam (Lambert, J.), *Le roman de mon enfance et de ma jeunesse* (Paris: Alphonse Lemerre, 1902–10); Aldo D'Agostini, "L'agency de Juliette Adam (1836–1936) – des lieux, des rôles et des combats pour agir en politique", *Rives Méditerranéennes*, 41 (2012), accessed August 14, 2020 under <https://journals.openedition.org/rives/4141>, n. p.
- 9 Adam, 370.
- 10 Julietta La Messine, Julietta, *Idées antiproudhoniennes sur l'amour, la femme et le mariage* (Paris: Librairie d'Alphonse Taride 1858).
- 11 Anne Martin-Fugier, *Les Salons de la IIIe République: Art, littérature, politique* (Paris: Perri 2003), 37–8.
- 12 Ibid. , 39.
- 13 Ibid. , 39.
- 14 Ibid. , 40–1.
- 15 D'Agostini, n. p.
- 16 Martin-Fugier, 67.
- 17 Ibid. , 65; D'Agostini, n. p.
- 18 Martin-Fugier, 432.
- 19 D'Agostini, n. p.
- 20 Winifred Stephens, *Madame Adam (Juliette Lambert): La grande française – From Louis Philippe until 1917* (London: Chapman and Hall, 1917), V.
- 21 Martin-Fugier, 68.
- 22 Ibid. , 40.
- 23 D'Agostini, n. p. Under the name of Paul Vasili, she published several articles about the society in different cities such as Berlin, Vienna and Paris in *La Nouvelle Revue* during the late 1880s.
- 24 Martin-Fugier, 77.
- for the concept of the Olympic Art Competitions from an art history perspective, *Sport in History*, Volume 38, Issue 4 (2018), 457–475; Richard Stanton, *The Forgotten Olympic Art Competitions* (Victoria: Trafford, 2000), 48; Erik Bergvall, Sveriges Olymska Komité, The official report of the Olympic Games of Stockholm 1912 (Stockholm: Wahlström and Widstrand, 1913).
- 25 D'Agostini, n. p. Adam helped Pierre Lotti to build his career. The original French text: La gestion d'une grande revue n'est pas, d'ailleurs, si différente de la gestion d'un salon. La rédactrice, comme l'hôtesse de salon, possède un réseau de collaborateurs qu'elle invite régulièrement à fréquenter les pages de sa revue. Elle a ainsi l'opportunité de lancer quelques noms et de bâtir quelques carrières littéraires.
- 26 D'Agostini, n. p; Marie-France Hilgar, Juliette Adam et *La Nouvelle Revue*, *Rocky Mountain Review of Language and Literature*, vol. 51, n. 2 (1997), 13.
- 27 Martin-Fugier, 78.
- 28 Pierre de Coubertin, Avant propos, *La Nouvelle Revue* (1896), VII–XX; Pierre de Coubertin, 1ère partie, *La Nouvelle Revue*, 18e année, tome 98, 15 février (1896), 705–723; Pierre de Coubertin, 2ème partie, *La Nouvelle Revue*, 18e année, tome 99, 1er avril (1896), 52–69; Pierre de Coubertin, 3ème partie, *La Nouvelle Revue*, 18e année, tome 99, 15 avril (1896), 265–84. These articles were published in a book with the same title, the English translation appeared one year later, in 1897.
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- 31 Pierre de Coubertin, *Souvenirs d'Amérique et de Grèce* (Paris: Hachette, 1897).
- 32 Pierre de Coubertin, Sigismond de Justh, *La Nouvelle Revue*, 19e année, tome 108, 15 septembre 1897, 261–270.
- 33 Pierre de Coubertin, „L'urgente réforme“, *La Nouvelle Revue*, tome 117, 1er avril (1897), 385–401.
- 34 The project is about Pierre de Coubertin and the women of his time and started in 2019.
- 35 CIO PT-PDC_AUTGR Autographes à Pierre de Coubertin (A–C): sélection de lettres écrites par des personnalités à Pierre de Coubertin, 1882–1937, SD 1 F Juliette Adam (1889–14914). Document sent to the author by the IOC archive on May 26, 2015.
- 36 For detailed information about the congress, see Norbert Müller, *Von Paris bis Baden-Baden: Die Olympischen Kongresse 1894–1981* (Niedernhausen: Schors, 1981).
- 37 Coubertin (1909), 79; Martin-Fugier, 77.
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The cover of the Official programme
for the 1928 Olympics

OLYMPISCHE SPIELE – AMSTERDAM 1928 – 28. JULI BIS 12. AUGUST, 48p.

When death cushions the fall: the twilight of Louafi Bouguera 1928 Olympic marathon champion

By Dr. Clement Genty¹

At the 1928 Olympic Games (Amsterdam), an 'unknown' athlete won the Olympic marathon. He was however not completely unknown for he had already been French marathon champion in 1924 and 1928. Bourghera El Ouafi placed seventh, the best finish by a French runner in the race. He had competed in the 1924 Paris Olympic Games where he had finished seventh the best finish by a French runner in the race.

On August 5th, 1928, he won the Olympic marathon in Amsterdam. He was invited to perform in the United States against the American distance runner Joie Ray, but returned to France shortly after the death of his promoter, Tex Rickard. There followed a descent into hell that lasted thirty years until his tragic death, because he was there at the wrong place, at the wrong time.



El Ouafi on the front cover of Le Miroir des Sports

LE MIROIR DES SPORTS n°442, August 7th 1928 – Author's personal collection.

The success of Bouguera El Ouafi (1903–1959) in the Olympic marathon of 1928 came as a surprise for many spectators

It had also caught many in the French press unawares for despite his achievements in domestic races and at the Paris Olympics, they had not monitored his progress. Even the coverage of his Olympic triumph was very limited.

We know few verifiable facts about El Ouafi's life. The only certain document is his death certificate, filled in thanks to the statements of his brother-in-law². Bourghera El Ouafi was born in 1903 in Ouled Djellal, in French Algeria and worked as a spray painter. Another administrative document is his military record which was granted to him for five years in 1918 but this too is open to question.³



El Ouafi racing against Andy Payne at Tulsa

LE MIROIR DES SPORTS n°453, October 23rd 1928, p. 295 – Author's personal collection.

1 Life in the USA after the Olympics

After Amsterdam, El Ouafi was Invited to perform in the United States by Tex Rickard (1870–1929), El Ouafi travelled around the country, running mostly against Joie Ray. He raced against him five times. He also ran against Johnny Hayes, winner of the 1908 Olympic marathon, and also Andy Payne, who had won the 1928 International Transcontinental Foot Race. El Ouafi won the race, organised at Tulsa (Oklahoma).

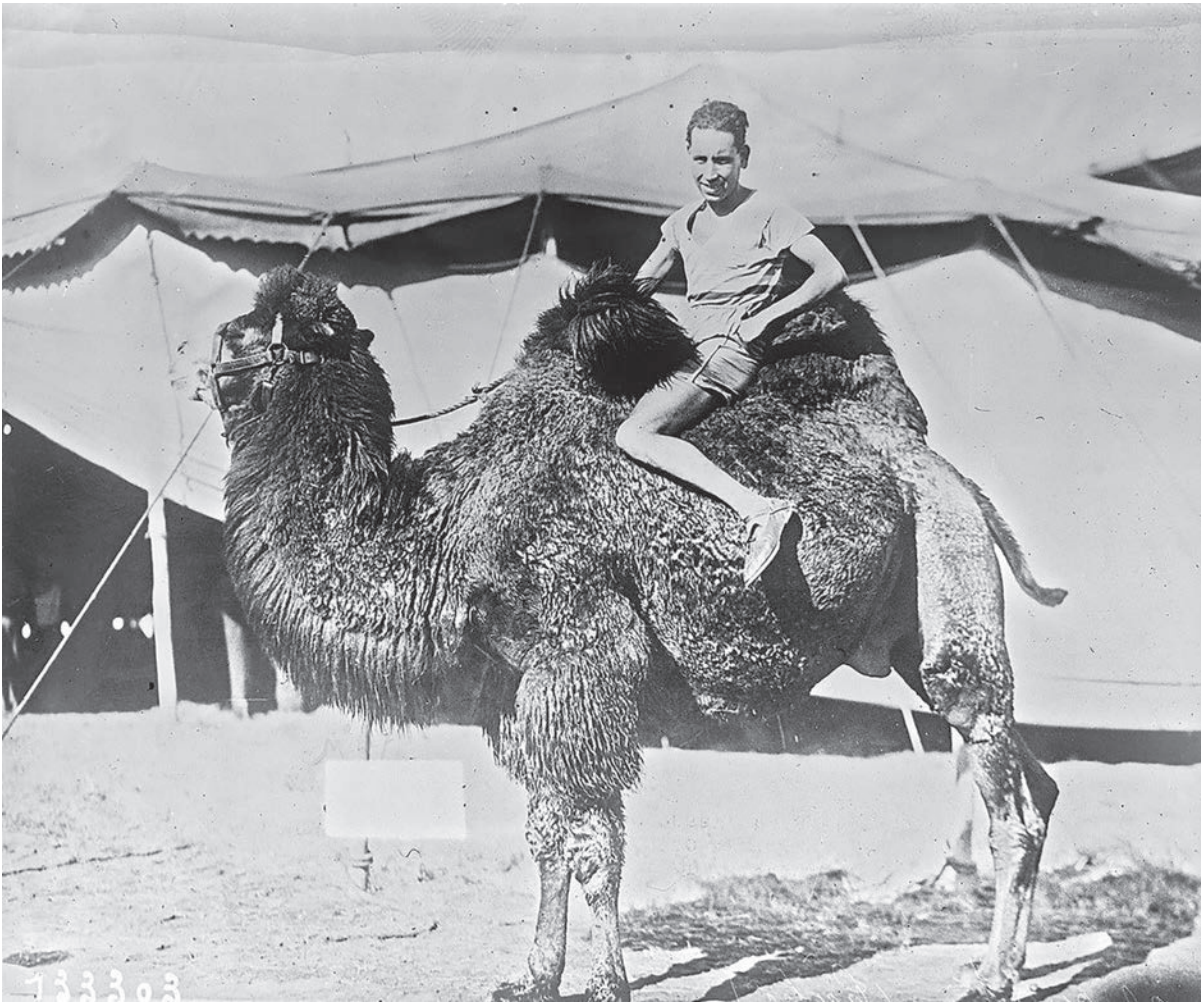
In his spare time, Bouguera El Ouafi posed for pictures, whether on the back of a camel or in a stadium, and offered advice to Chicago runners.

A lack of earnings, the death of Rickard in January 1929 and loneliness prompted El Ouafi to return to France at the end of his contract, without any extension. The contract was simple : five months in the United States, ten marathons, ten races of 25 kilometers, all for the sum of 250, 000 francs. Let's remember that at this time El Ouafi earned 40 francs a day working at Renault.

The smile of his arrival is far away.

2 From the US to France

How much did he receive in the end ? We know that on one hand he was given a bonus of \$4000 for his first race and but the other hand that he was accompanied



El Ouafi posing on a camel

El Ouafi [coureur à pied sur le dos d'un chameau] (Pacific) [Image fixe] : [photographie de presse] / [Agence Rol] : [d'après la photographie originale de l'agence photographique Pacific and Atlantic] - Paris : diff. par l'Agence Rol, 1928
<https://catalogue.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/cb458678538>

by a manager, François Quilgars (1889–1948), a Great War hero but one who had experienced problems with the French tax authorities?

It is Impossible to be certain about his income except to say that we know that on his arrival in France he bought three bar and hotel businesses and paid a deposit for a caravanserai. The rest of his life was to prove just a series of falls.

After his arrival in Le Havre on February 1, 1929, El Ouafi quickly left for Algeria, where on the 12th of the same month he met with the editorial staff of the newspaper *L'Échod'Alger*.

During the month of July, he was in a Parisian bar in the fifth arrondissement, the Gypsy's, where a fight broke out over the bill.

40 francs for two glasses of whisky was too expensive compared to what was being charged across the Atlantic. The athlete lost his watch and the owner requested 3,000 francs in damages. On October 11, the

Justice of Peace dismissed both parties. The press, informed of this, seized upon the headline

El Ouafi trouvait le whisky un peu cher

**A headline tells the story of the incident with the whisky.
Ouafi finds the whisky a little expensive**

El Ouafi trouvait le whisky un peu cher in *Le Populaire* Vol. 12 n°2441, October 12th 1929, p. 3.

On the business side, as we have said, El Ouafi acquired three properties in France, in addition to a small property in the countryside of Algeria for his parents⁴ :

- hotel restaurant, at 189 boulevard de la Gare⁵, Paris for renovation⁶;
- hotel restaurant, 13 rue Juge, Paris⁷;
- hotel coffee shop, 88 boulevard de Grenelle, Paris⁸.



El Ouafi whilst in the United States

WINNER OF RECENT OLYMPIC MARATHON TRAINS FOR AMERICAN «BARNSTORMING» TOUR AT SOUTH FIELD - UNDERWOOD and UNDERWOOD - Author's personal collection.



A smiling Boughera El Ouafi doffs his hat on arrival in New York

OLYMPIC MARATHON CHAMPION ARRIVES FROM France - WILL RUN IN THIS COUNTRY - UNDERWOOD and UNDERWOOD - Author's personal collection.

The address of the probable caravanseraï is not known.

3 The trial

In May 1930, a year after he had returned to Europe, El Ouafi borrowed 7000 francs from an acquaintance, one Mohamed Atami, a hotel owner⁹, with whom he was dealing in a joint venture¹⁰.

The latter, who came to recover his debt from the athlete, accused him of having torn up the bills of exchange and fled¹¹.

Initially sentenced to two months in prison¹², El Ouafi was sent to the correctional court, but the case was postponed in order to "allow the North African brigade of the judicial police to sort out the real from the fake"¹³.

Again, the case was taken up by the media. They were amused to learn that the current Olympic marathon champion had "run away." Even the American press

reported on the trial. Two weeks later, El Ouafi was acquitted.

The Excelsior newspaper asked "Who is telling the truth? How can we know? Arabs are not known for always telling the truth!"¹⁴

Three months later, the establishment concerned, the hotel located at 189 Boulevard de la Gare, was put under management.

Its owner specified: "with the intention of giving myself up again to a methodical training. I like sports, by the way, and particularly running, and I make a point of proselytizing. In this regard, I have advised my younger brother who still lives in Algeria and whom I hope to make a top-class runner"¹⁵.

However, less than two years later, there was no longer any record of El Ouafi being active in real estate. In 1934, he was to be found in a hospice for impoverished people in Algeria, "in a state close to misery, sick, without work"¹⁶.



El Ouafi with Francois Quilgars who was his manager whilst in America

WINNER OF RECENT OLYMPIC MARATHON TRAINS FOR AMERICAN « BARNSTORMING » TOUR AT SOUTH FIELD – UNDERWOOD and UNDERWOOD – Author's personal collection.

Taken in charge by an unknown person, he was sent to the Broussais Hospital in the fourteenth arrondissement of Paris.

He received a letter from a man named M. Desgranges, possibly the editor of the newspaper *L'Auto* and founder of the Tour du France, who promised him a stay in a sanatorium.

The journalist present at his side wrote "The poor guy keeps this hope alive all day long, because it's the only one he has left".

Although his situation was supported by the press, El Ouafi denied the reality and told *L'Echo d'Alger* about his illness which temporarily handicapped him.

"I had a small business, I was the victim of a fraud, my associate had me condemned by default while I was hospitalized. I thus lost both my business and 140,000 francs that I had paid. On this subject, Mr. Gaudin, from the North African office, is going to study my case; I hope to recover my money" El Ouafi had said.

In January 1935, El Ouafi was found selling newspapers in Bourg-en-Bresse (France,) where an inspector was surprised to discover he was selling the previous day's newspaper.

"Hey! I start by selling what's left from yesterday before selling what's just arrived" explained El Ouafi who was unable to read or write.

The following year, the French press questioned the only French athletics champion of 1928 about the Berlin Games¹⁷:

"Olympic champion. That's right. I was an Olympic champion. How far away it seems to me now. I still think I'm dreaming when I think about it. Me, a poor little Algerian, from far away Biskra.

I had honours; I was celebrated; I was talked about in all the newspapers of the world. And then America, Madison Square Garden. . . . How beautiful it all seemed to me.

Now it's all over. I have nothing left other than to go for a little run of five or six kilometres from time to time with some friends in Ivry, at the small stadium of the locality, because I still like to run in spite of my 32 years."

The following year, his half-sister emigrated to France, accompanied by her husband. El Ouafi then worked as a spray painter at Alsthom, a position he held for the rest of his life.



The grave of an Olympic Champion as it appeared in the summer of 2021

Photo by the Author

Going to trial in 1938 for the story of the deposit paid for the caravanserai, El Ouafi maintained that his former associate should be sentenced to four months in prison. The athlete then concluded¹⁸ :

"I'm happy. Now that I don't have any money, I won't have any more problems."

In 1944, while France was at war, Bouguera El Ouafi was reinstated as an amateur after having been banned for professionalism in the United States.

At some point, the date is not known he was also hit by a bus.

Later he lived with his half sister and brother in a house where he was visited by Alain Mimoun who had won a gold medal in the 1956 Olympic marathon.

The new Olympic champion gave him a certain amount of money [...].

Finally, in 1956, Bouguera recalled his life¹⁹:

"I was a fool to agree to cross the Atlantic [...]. After the Games, I was offered a tour of America. I don't know if you realize what it meant for me, a worker at the Renault factories, to go to America. . . I said yes! All my expenses were paid... It's beautiful, you know,



El Ouafi with Alain Mimoun in 1958

LEHOUSSE, Christophe (2017). El Ouafi Bouguera, le marathonnier oublié - in le Rétro dans Seine-Saint-Denis LE MAGAZINE, September 12th 2017.

America! ... People were very nice to me: I defeated their champions, they asked me for autographs... [...]

I was feeding the organizers, I was feeding my manager, but what I accepted was barely enough to compensate me for the wages I lost at Renault! . . . I had been racing since I was fourteen years old. I trained like a

madman. I never allowed myself a Saturday night or a Sunday! . . . The Chilean who was behind me in Amsterdam, was given a villa by his president . . . Mine disqualified me! I put the little money I had into a business, a café. But I am a fool, my partner cheated me. I couldn't run anymore and I didn't have the heart for it, I was ready to make a fool of myself!

[...]

What do you want me to say? I was greatly paid, in Amsterdam, by the joy of having given a title to my country! . . . It doesn't matter if the French don't think of me anymore. I love them and I know that I did something useful for all of them by winning that marathon once! . . . I was very sick. These friends said that I was dead, the journalists announced my death, I did not protest, I did not care! . . . I don't want my neighbours to see me as I am right now, poorly dressed and broke! It wouldn't look good for an Olympic champion. . . When I meet people I know, I hurry to say hello and I run away. I'm ashamed! . . . I don't know what will become of me,

I prefer not to think about it. I don't have a penny to spare. I will probably have difficulty in dying properly". This was his last interview.

After a visit to the Bobigny cemetery, a plaque was handed over in the presence of the Bobigny sports director, Jaffa Ghemri and the Mayor of Bobigny, Abdel Sadi. The International Olympic Committee, the French Olympic Committee (CNOSF), and Paris 2024 Organisers were all invited to this ceremony.

None of them responded, even though the invitation had been sent more than two months before the event.

- 1 Associate Researcher at Arts et Metiers Institute of Technology, ISOH member and City Councillor of the city of Meursault (France), home town of Albert Corey, the sole Frenchman present at the 1904 Olympic Games. The author would like to thank Bouguera's family for their kindness and Volker Kluge for its renewed trust.
- 2 Civil registry of the city of Saint-Denis, year 1959, death certificate number 849
- 3 Military record for Ben Abed Bagui El Ouafi, colonied'Alger, class of 1918, number 22057 – Thanks to Vincent Guignard and Luc Voller from the French Athletics Federation for providing this document.
- 4 « Pêle Mêle » Sports in *Le Pêle Mêle* Vol. 32 n° 278, June 16th 1929
- 5 L'ancien champion El Ouafi en correctionnelle in *L'Écho d'Alger* Vol. 21 n° 8186, March 2nd 1932, p. 1.
- 6 UNE INTERVIEW D'EL OUAFI LE COMMERCE EST CONTENT in *L'Écho d'Alger* Vol. 18 n° 7320, October 23rd 1929, p. 5.
- 7 On reproche au champion El Ouafi d'avoir démarré trop brusquement devant un créancier in *Le Matin* Vol. 49 n° 17514, March 2nd 1932, p. 1.
- 8 UNE INTERVIEW D'EL OUAFI LE COMMERCE EST CONTENT in *L'Écho d'Alger* Vol. 18 n° 7320, October 23rd 1929, p. 5.
- 9 LES TRIBUNAUX Un champion olympique en correctionnelle in *Excelsior* Vol. 23 n° 7751, March 2nd 1932, p. 2.
- 10 ANNONCES LÉGALES PUBLIÉES DANS LES JOURNAUX JUDI-

CAIRES DE PARIS in *Archives Commerciales de la France* Vol. 58 n° 132, november 6th 1931, p. 5058.

- 11 EL Ouafi a été acquitté par les juges correctionnels in *Le Journal*, March 17th 1932, p. 5.
- 12 LES TRIBUNAUX Un champion olympique en correctionnelle in *Excelsior* Vol. 23 n° 7751, March 2nd 1932, p. 2.
- 13 On reproche au champion El Ouafi d'avoir démarré trop brusquement devant un créancier in *Le Matin* Vol. 49 n° 17514, march 2nd 1932, p. 1.
- 14 LES TRIBUNAUX Un champion olympique en correctionnelle in *Excelsior* Vol. 23 n° 7751, March 2nd 1932, p. 2.
- 15 Les impressions d'El Ouafi avant le marathon olympique in *L'Écho d'Alger* Vol. 21 n° 8338, August 7th 1932, p. 4.
- 16 COURSE A PIED –El Ouafi gravement malade in *L'Intransigeant* Vol. 55, May 16th 1934, p. 4.
- 17 AVANT LE MARATHON in *L'Intransigeant* Vol. 57, August 5th 1936, p. 4.
- 18 EL Ouafi, victime d'un agent d'affaires, comparaît en correctionnelle in *L'Écho d'Alger* Vol. 27 n° 10041, February 1st 1938, p. 2.
- 19 MEYER, Gaston (1956). LA TRAGIQUE AVENTURE D'EL OUAFI illustre le problème de l'amateurisme in *L'Équipe* Vol. 11 n° 3348, December 18th 1956, p. 1, quoted by LUNZENFICHTER, Alain (2001). *De Marathon au marathon*, p. 116–117.



Construction difficulties at Mount Eniwa's Downhill course for the 1972 Sapporo Winter Olympics

By Dr Soya Ishizuka



A view of the course at Mount Eniwa

Picture Hokkaido Government 1973

1 Introduction

Since the 1990s, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has demonstrated a greater concern and alignment with the international environmental conservation movement. In the early 1990s, the IOC advocated for the addition of the environment alongside sport and culture as the third pillar of the Olympic Movement. The United Nations (UN) Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992 was the catalyst for the decision. As is well known, the

Conference proposed the guidelines for taking environmental conservation measures and promoting sustainability in the international community.

Even before the 1990s the sporting world had not been indifferent to the environmental issue. In order to host large-scale sport events such as the Olympic Games, it is necessary to build venues while paying the utmost attention to preserve the environment. The sports fans who gather there arrive by planes, trains and cars. Sometimes the host government and local governments may take the opportunity of invit-

ing sport events to accelerate urban development and improve transportation.

Previous research has revealed that the IOC has met with protests about venue construction in connection with hosting the Olympic Games since the 1930s. In the 1960s, there were controversies over development of the site at Mt. Eniwa which was to be used for downhill skiing for the XI Olympic Winter Games (Winter Games) to be held in Sapporo in 1972 ("Construction Issue of the Mt. Eniwa downhill events site"). Since the 1970s, protests against the environmental destruction as a result of the Olympic Movement emerged intermittently during the bidding process and the Games.

This article will first summarize the environmental issues in the Olympic Movement, measures taken by the IOC and the activities and measures related to environmental conservation conducted by the Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (OCOG). This article will then explore the Construction Issue of the Mt. Eniwa downhill events site for the 1972 Sapporo Winter Games, which was one of the first cases in the Olympic Movement where environmental conservation measures were taken.

2 Environmental issues in the Olympic Movement and Measures Taken by the IOC and the OCOGs

Environmental issues tend to come to the fore during the bidding for, and hosting of, the Winter Games to a far greater extent than at the Games of the Olympiad (Summer Games). The scale of the Winter Games has expanded as a result of an increase in competitor numbers and events. In turn this has led to extensive forest and mountain destruction in order to construct venues such as new ski courses.

The first criticism against environmental destruction in the Olympic Movement was raised in 1932 before the Winter Games at Lake Placid, USA. A local environmental group at Lake Placid protested because the venues for the Games were planned in a state park. As a result, the bobsled run was moved to an alternate venue (Chappelet, 2008).

After that, the venues for the Winter Games gradually moved from winter resort locations to urban areas. Between the 1950s and early 1960s, issues related to the cost and size of construction of venues also became a focus. (Ahwell, 1996).

During the preparatory period for the 1972 Sapporo Winter Games, negotiations were held between the Sapporo OCOG and the Hokkaido Nature Conservation Society, a local organization for environmental conservation, over the use of Mt. Eniwa. This had been designated as the venue for the downhill course. Af-

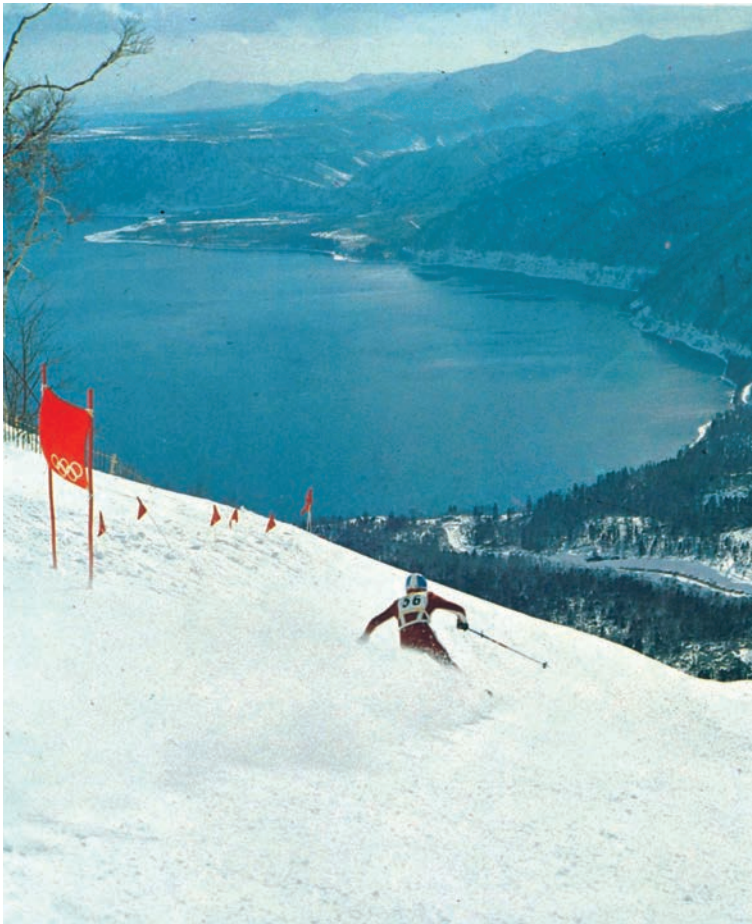
ter the Games, the Mt. Eniwa downhill events site was dismantled and the land was reforested. Chappelet (2008) indicates that this was one of the first environmental conservation measures in Olympic Movement history. Essex and Chalkley (2004) have discussed whether this measure at Mt. Eniwa was a genuine measure or merely a compromise favouring Olympic development, concluding this is open to debate. Furthermore, Raita (2012) indicates the IOC delegated the task of addressing environmental issues to the OCOG and was not actively involved in the process from the 1950s to the 1970s. The details of the Construction Issue of the Mt. Eniwa downhill events site will be introduced in section three of this article.

In the 1970s environmental groups launched protests on an intermittent basis during both the bidding process, and after the award of the Games. The 1976 Winter Games had been allocated to Denver, USA, but Denver withdrew after a public referendum as a result of concerns about cost and the environment, the first time after World War II that a city awarded the Games rejected them. One reason is attributable to the protests by environmental and other groups. The withdrawal occurred in the wake of the concerns over the Mt. Eniwa site and also worries expressed about use of a national park in Banff, Canada, which had been a competitor to Sapporo in the race for the 1972 Games (Landry and Yelès, 1997).

In the latter half of the 1980s, the OCOGs began to compromise with the environmental conservation movement as protests intensified. Environmental groups demanded a review of environmentally friendly development plans at the 1988 Winter Games in Calgary, Canada. The Calgary OCOG took account of their demands in constructing the venues and other facilities, referring to their demands (Chernushenko, 1999).

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the IOC became more involved in environmental issues emerged in sport movements such as the Olympic Games, the IOC was inevitably involved more. At the 1992 Winter Games in Albertville, France, protests at the opening ceremony of the Games claimed that the construction of the venues had destroyed the environment (Chernushenko, 1999). The IOC requested the Lillehammer OCOG to give due consideration to the environment for the 1994 Games (Cantelon and Letters, 2000). Discussions between the Lillehammer OCOG, the Norwegian government and the IOC were held in co-operation with environmental groups so that venues were built with due attention for post Games use and landscape protection (Lesjø, 2000).

Starting from the 1990s, the IOC became more involved in environmental issues, when Agenda 21 was proposed at the UN Conference on Environment and



As skier on the Olympic course at Mount Eniwa

Picture Hokkaido Government 1973

Development. As mentioned at the beginning of this article, the IOC added the Environment as one of the pillars of the Olympic Movement in the early 1990s. The 1991 Olympic Charter stipulates that the IOC is responsible concerning the environment (IOC, 1991). In 1995, the IOC created a Sport and Environment Commission and held the World Conference on Sport and the Environment every other year until 2013. In 1999, the IOC adopted the Olympic Movement's Agenda 21 in line with the aims of UN Agenda 21. Since then, the IOC has been cooperating more with international organisations such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and started activities to raise awareness about environmental conservation throughout the sport community (Chappelet, 2008). In 2014, IOC President Thomas Bach unveiled Olympic Agenda 2020 as a proposal for the future of the Olympic Movement. This included recommendations to encourage the use of existing and temporary facilities, greater flexibility in allowing competitions to take place in other cities and countries, and emphasises the importance of environmental conservation (IOC, 2014). Furthermore, in 2021, the IOC announced an

Olympic Agenda 2020+5 which proposed reducing CO₂ emissions by 30 percent in line with the Paris Agreement, formulating an "Olympic Forest" concept to absorb about 200,000 tons of CO₂. This supported the International Federations (IFs) and National Olympic Committees (NOCs) in their transition towards carbon neutrality through the Sport for Climate Action Framework and contributed to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (IOC, 2021). The IOC thus presented a more in-depth approach to environmental conservation.

In response to the IOC's work and the environmental conservation movement in the international community, the OCOGs have also taken a greater part in environmental conservation activities. At the 2018 Winter Games in PyeongChang, South Korea, an exhibition was held to introduce environmental considerations in everyday life. The PyeongChang OCOG also exhibited a carbon offset mechanism that encouraged visitors to convert their carbon footprint into monetary amounts and invest in renewable energy (Otsu, 2020). The 2020 Summer Games in Tokyo, postponed to prevent COVID-19 from spreading, were held in the summer of 2021. The Tokyo OCOG used natural benefits such as natural lighting and ventilation for its new permanent facilities, and procured other goods and equipment based on renting and leasing. In addition, the use of public transportation and hybrid and fuel cell vehicles with high environmental performance was encouraged and promoted. In particular, the Tokyo OCOG made a carbon offset for approximately about 1,960,000 tons of CO₂ emissions related to the Games with approximately 4,380,000 tons of CO₂ credits provided by many businesses, achieving a carbon-positive result which exceeded approximately 2,420,000 tons of CO₂ (Tokyo Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, 2021).

3 The Construction Issue of the Mt. Eniwa Downhill Events Site

Sapporo was awarded the 1972 Winter Games at the 64th IOC Session in Rome on April 26, 1966 (IOC, 1966). The Sapporo Winter Games were held from February 3 to 13, 1972, with 1128 participants from 35 countries and 35 events in six sports. The only venue constructed outside Sapporo was the Mt. Eniwa downhill events site. The following is an overview of the issue that emerged in connection with the venue construction.

3.1 Downhill Site Selection and the Hokkaido Nature Conservation Society

The downhill venue for the 1972 Sapporo Winter Games was constructed on Mt. Eniwa in Chitose, a

suburban city, had been identified as a potential site when Sapporo bid for the 1968 Games which were eventually awarded to Grenoble. Initially, Mt. Teine and Mt. Sapporo were also among the proposed sites for the downhill venue. On April 9, 1962, the then Bid Committee selected Mt. Eniwa as the preferred location site for the downhill. This decision was made as a result of advice from Friedle Wolfgang, a member of the Fédération Internationale de Ski, who was invited to select the course (Sapporo Bid Committee for the X Olympic Winter Games, 1964).

Following this decision, this matter became one of the agenda items at the Hokkaido Nature Conservation Society, a local environmental conservation organisation. On December 4, 1965, the 10th Executive Board meeting of the Society decided to request discussions with sports federations and Sapporo City officials regarding the construction at Mt. Eniwa (Hokkaido Nature Conservation Society, 1966). In 1966 Ayao Ide, the Executive Board chairman of the Society and a Professor at Hokkaido University, outlined his organisation's position in the Hokkaido Shimbun newspaper.

"The Hokkaido Nature Conservation Society was established on December 1, 1959. By the time the Society began its activities, Mt. Eniwa was already known to the public as a planned construction site for a course. The Mt. Eniwa issue, therefore, was a past issue, but our Executive Board members had intense discussions, which took place just before the 1966 IOC where a host city was to be selected. Under these circumstances, our society decided to reconsider the matter after the host city would be decided. Our decision was based on not wanting our Society to be opposed to the Olympics. In addition, it had not been expected that Sapporo would be selected as the host city. Following the IOC's selection of Sapporo as a host city, our Society raised the Mt. Eniwa issue as an agenda item again." (The original Japanese text was summarized and translated by the author.)

In April 1966, Sapporo was selected as the host city for the 1972 Winter Games, which provoked heated discussions within the Hokkaido Nature Conservation Society. On June 10, 1966, the 12th Executive Board of the Society concluded that while the Society did not oppose the construction of the Mt. Eniwa downhill events site, it would offer its opinion to the Sapporo OCOG from the standpoint of environmental conservation. (Hokkaido Nature Conservation Society, 1966). Incidentally, even before Sapporo was decided as the host city of the 1972 Winter Games, some Sapporo citizens has been concerned about deforestation caused by the construction of venues. However, the construc-



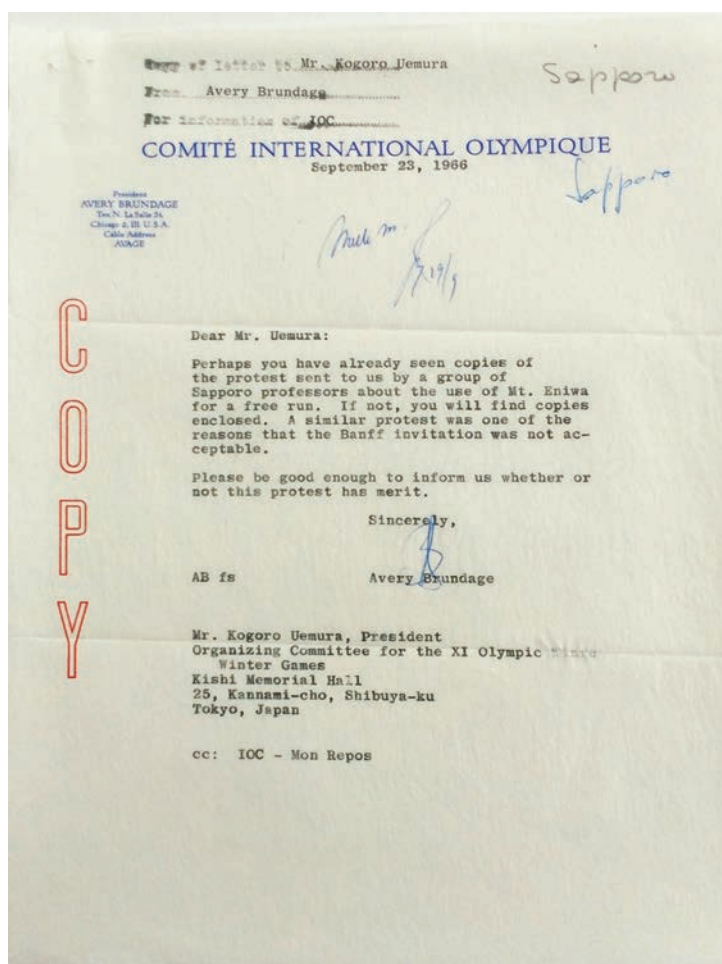
Official Poster designed by Takashi Kono

tion issue of the Mt. Eniwa had not been mentioned in this context (Ishizuka, 2014b).

3.2 Request for change of the construction site of the downhill venue

On September 2, 1966, Ide addressed a letter to the IOC requesting asking for the construction site of the downhill venue to be changed. This was signed by Executive Board members of the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and volunteer members of the Executive Board of the Hokkaido Nature Conservation Society who were against using Mt. Eniwa (Tahara, 2010). Ide recalled this request in a 1995 bulletin of the Hokkaido Nature Conservation Society (Ide, 1995) as follows:

"We strongly opposed the use of Mt. Eniwa, but I made a counter proposal as a condition in the letter. The proposed condition was to reuse the venue and to reforest and restore Mt. Eniwa. I wanted to warn that



1 Letter from Brundage to Uemura September 23, 1966

Letters Olympic Studies Centre

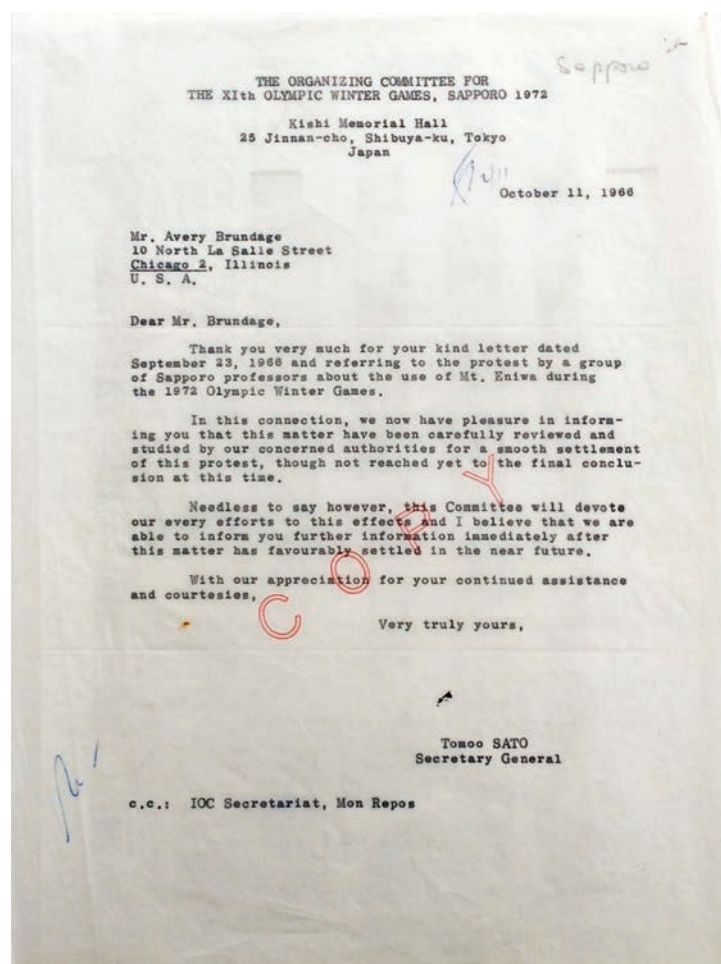
destruction and restoration of nature would come with a high price for the future.” (Summarized and translated by the author.

On September 23, 1966, Avery Brundage, the IOC President, wrote to the Sapporo OCOG President Kogoro Uemura regarding the request to change the construction site of the downhill venue.

“Perhaps you have already seen copies of protest sent to us by a group of Sapporo professors about the use of Mt. Eniwa for a ski run. If not, you will find copies enclosed. A similar protest was one of the reasons that the Banff invitation was not acceptable.

Please be good enough to inform us whether or not this protest has merit.”

Brundage was concerned about the feasibility of the 1972 Winter Games because a similar problem had occurred in Banff, Canada, another candidate city for the 1972 Winter Games (Ishizuka, 2015). At the IOC Session, which was to decide the host city for the 1972 Winter Games, the issue of Banff was discussed im-



Letter from Sato to Brundage October October 11, 1966

Letters Olympic Studies Centre

mediately before the voting for the host city selection took place (IOC, 1966).

On October 11, 1966, Tomoo Sato of the Sapporo OCOG replied to Brundage.

Thank you very much for your kind letter dated September 23, 1966 and referring to the protest by a group of Sapporo professors about the use of Mt. Eniwa during the Olympic Winter Games in 1972.

In this connection, we now have pleasure in informing you that this matter have been carefully reviewed and studied by our concerned authorities for a smooth settlement of this protest, though not reached yet to the final conclusion at this time.

Needless to say however, this Committee will devote our every efforts (sic) to this effects (sic) and I believe that we are able to inform you further information immediately after this matter has favorably settled in the near future.

The Sapporo OCOG sent a telegram to Brundage on March 29, 1967, stating that the National Park Council in Japan approved the use of Mt. Eniwa for the down-



A reinforced concrete bridge girder remains at the entrance to the venue

Photo by the author

hill venue at the 1972 Winter Games (Telegram from Uemura to Brundage, March 29, 1967).

Prior to sending the telegram, the Sapporo OCOG decided to take measures on the issue, which is discussed in the next section. Specifically, the request to change the construction site of the downhill venue and the exchange of opinions through a letter between Brundage and the Sapporo OCOG triggered the subsequent negotiations over concrete measures for nature conservation between the Sapporo OCOG and the Hokkaido Nature Conservation Society.

3.3 Negotiations on Concrete Measures for Environmental Conservation

On October 29, 1966, the Hokkaido Nature Conservation Society confirmed at its 15th Executive Board meeting that the Sapporo OCOG decided to dismantle the Mt. Eniwa downhill events site after the Games (Hokkaido Nature Conservation Society, 1966).

In addition, on February 20, 1967, the Hokkaido Nature Conservation Society submitted the following request to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Health and Welfare (Hokkaido Nature Conservation Society, 1967):

“If it is unavoidable to construct a venue, we urge that all of it be dismantled after the Olympic Games. Second, simply dismantling the entire venue will leave the land in a dilapidated state. Therefore, we demand that the reforestation be well maintained

and leave no trace of the devastation by the Olympic Games in the future.”

(Translated by the author)

On March 17, 1967, at the fifth meeting of the ski sub committee, the Sapporo OCOG confirmed that the Mt. Eniwa downhill venue would be temporary. (Sapporo Organizing Committee for Olympic Winter Games, 1967). In addition, on March 25, 1967, the Hokkaido Nature Conservation Society confirmed at its 17th Executive Board meeting that the Sapporo OCOG intended to apply natural regeneration for restoration that was to depend only on the power of nature (Hokkaido Nature Conservation Society, 1967).

As is well known, the land was reforested on the site of the venue. However, previous studies have not explored the details of the change from natural regeneration to reforestation. The author analysed newly found materials and clarified new findings. The approval document sent to the Governor of Hokkaido on May 24, 1968 by the Director of the National Park Bureau and reproduced by the Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Environment in 2000, stated the position.

“After the purpose of this matter is completed, measures should be taken to reforest as soon as possible and the venue should be returned to its original state.” (Translated by the author)



A retaining wall made of earth was put in place after the Games to prevent subsidence

Photo by the author

The Organizing Committee indicated at the beginning that it would apply natural regeneration to restore the venue at Mt. Eniwa. The Ministry of Health and Welfare, however, permitted the construction of the Mt. Eniwa downhill events site on the condition that reforestation of the land would be conducted. Furthermore, the permit clearly states that the site must be reforested as soon as possible after the Games in order to restore the site to its original state. It is possible that there were discussions within the Sapporo OCOG between March 25, 1967 and February 29, 1968, but no materials related to the discussions were found.

As far as confirmed from the recent inspection of reports and videos, the reforested land has not yet restored sufficiently enough to harmonise with the surrounding area [Sakita, 2018; Hokkaido Shimbun Press, 2016]. As it stands now, Mt. Eniwa has not been restored to the original state it had been before the construction of the venue. According to the 1972 Organising Committee, construction of the Mt. Eniwa downhill events site cost approximately 830 million yen. The project for restoration has cost approximately 240 million yen according to figures released by the Japan Sports Association and Japan Forest Engineering Consultants Hokkaido Branch Office, in 1987.

Two individuals played a major role in promoting the dismantling and reforestation project of Mt. Eniwa. One was Kingo Machimura, a member of the Sapporo OCOG and the governor of Hokkaido then, as well as the honorary president of the Hokkaido Nature Con-

servation Society (Hokkaido Nature Conservation Society, 1995). The other was Takei Tojo, president of the Hokkaido Nature Conservation Society and president of the Hokkaido Takushoku Bank at the time. He was an auditor at the Sapporo OCOG (Tojo, 1983). These two were in a position to reflect the views of the Hokkaido Nature Conservation Society as Sapporo OCOG members. As a result, a place for discussion where the opinions of the Hokkaido Nature Conservation Society and of those interested in environmental conservation was created (Ishizuka, 2014a).

4 Conclusion

Environmental issues had first been raised in the Olympic Movement in the 1930s, but only became prominent in the 1970s and the IOC did not become actively involved until the 1990s. It is noteworthy that one of the first examples of environmental conservation measures taken in the history of the Olympic Movement came at Mt. Eniwa after the 1972 Sapporo Winter Games.

The main motivation for the restoration of the site came as a result of Ide's request for changing the construction site which prompted a cooperative relationship was established, though unexpectedly, between the OCOG, environmental groups and government as seen in the 1970s. It should be noted, however, that there is a large difference between what was achieved at Mt. Eniwa and the goals advocated in the Olympic Agenda 2020, and the Olympic Agenda 2020+5. It

should be also noted that there are conflicting views about the future of the site at Mt. Eniwa (Japan Sports Association and Japan Forest Engineering Consultants Hokkaido Branch Office, 1987; Yajima et al., 1995). Above all, Mt. Eniwa has not restored itself to the original condition before the construction of the venue.

Nonetheless, this case highlighted the environmental issues of the Olympic Movement, visualised the difficulty and complexity of environmental conservation, and demonstrated the importance of decision-making with due consideration for diverse opinions. Sport organizations need to take this case as a lesson and contribute to promoting environmental conservation and sustainability that require work in the international community. Indeed, we must take this case as a commandment for the future.

Sapporo aims to host the 2030 Winter Games. This article does not argue against Sapporo's bidding campaign for the Winter Games. According to a opin-

ion poll, published in the Hokkaido Shimbun in 2023, 39 percent of Sapporo citizens agreed or somewhat agreed with the bid and 67 percent disagreed or somewhat disagreed.

In the first place, the Olympic Games are part of the Olympic Movement which seeks to create a way of life, promoting mutual understanding and a peaceful society through sport. That is, the Olympic Games must be a medium that benefits not only athletes and policy-makers but also the citizens of the host city and country as well as the people of the world. If Sapporo does decide to return to the bidding table it will be necessary to minimize the impact on the natural environment in the construction of venues and other facilities, while considering the latest IOC guidelines and the policies of the international community. Simultaneously, the organizers must respect the diverse opinions and reflect them in the operation of the Olympic Games.

1 This article is mainly based on the author's dissertation with research data obtained from the analysis of newly available materials (Ministry of the Environment, 2000) and some new information. Some materials obtained from the then Ministry of Health are classified as documents of the Ministry of the Environment because the Environment Agency became independent of the Ministry of Health in 1971 and the Environment Agency became the Ministry of the Environment in 2001.

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Cruise Control

The Olympics and Television Part 7

By Richard W Pound



A bank of television screens at the International Broadcasting Centre with a multitude of images from different venues

Picture Olympic Broadcasting Services

Out of the Gate

With the stunning success of the Calgary bidding process and the IOC-managed rescue of the Seoul process debacle, the stage was set for the next negotiations in relation to the 1992 Games in Albertville and Barcelona. The IOC had established that it was moving toward active control of the negotiations, first jointly with the Olympic Organising Committees (OCOGs), then in consultation with the OCOGs and ultimately in sole control of the entire exercise. The networks understood that there was no network having an inside track and that a process involving ongoing direct contact with the owner of the broadcast rights was preferable to the former one-off perspective of a particular OCOG having no interest beyond its own Games.

Even more important, the IOC was in a position to bring “added value” to the broadcast rights as its understanding and promotion of the Olympic Brand evolved. Having the IOC as an ongoing partner in

Olympic broadcasting, with an ongoing interest in future Games was a significant forward step from simply being a vendor of broadcast rights.

Albertville, 1992

The broadcasters were not willing to negotiate in the same manner as for the 1988 Games, with written bids and an open-ended auction. They were also keenly aware that ABC was likely to incur significant losses in respect of the Calgary Games and that there were serious concerns regarding the Seoul Games with the time differences and political tensions, both domestic and international.

As to the bidding for Albertville, Games in Europe were not nearly as attractive in the United States as Games in North America, so expectations were for significantly lower rights fees.

The broadcasters also wanted assurance that the IOC would accept the highest bid, whatever it might be. We were not ready to do that, but worked out a compromise, pursuant to which we agreed to put a number



A cameraman from OBS in action at the Rio 2016 Olympics

in a sealed envelope prior to the bidding which would be the threshold, over which we would be obliged to accept the highest bid and below which we would have the right, but not the obligation, to accept a lower bid. The amount chosen was \$200 million. CBS won at \$243 million, beating NBC. ABC had not been in the running. NBC took the ungraceful public position that its strategy had been to manoeuvre CBS into paying too much.

Barcelona, 1992

The Barcelona OCOG had its own consultants, not expert in television, let alone Olympic television. They were from Saatchi & Saatchi, an agency which placed advertising, leading to a firm view that they understood the television market. Fortunately, the basis of the negotiations was no longer joint, as for Calgary and Seoul, but “in consultation with” the OCOG, giving the IOC the final right to decide. Relations between the IOC and OCOGs are important, so the input from the OCOGs was given respectful consideration, even when it was often incorrect or impracticable. The format chosen was to get bids from each of the three U. S. networks, to eliminate the lowest, and to have a final round between the top two. The Barcelona consultants took the view that a smoke-and-mirrors revenue sharing proposal from ABC (totally dependent on its sales efforts) was better than a cash deal from CBS. We got around that impasse by saying that the bids were so different that we could not eliminate any one of them. NBC made a take-out bid of \$401 million, which included a pay-per-view component of \$75 - \$100 million (taking the form of a so-called “Triplecast” that proved to be a marketing disaster)

and threw in an extra amount of \$15 million worth of extra television time that the IOC and Barcelona could use to promote the Games. The eventual contractual negotiations were much easier than they had been for the acrimonious Seoul discussions, since NBC was already familiar with the provisions and the political uncertainties that had surrounded Seoul did not exist. NBC had been well ahead of the other networks in the first round and, probably suspecting that, indicated that its second bid was valid only if another network bid higher in the second round than NBC had in the first. CBS’s bid was slightly more, which removed the conditional nature of NBC’s bid, thus arriving at the \$401 million total. Neither CBS nor the IOC commented publicly on whether NBC had been manoeuvred into paying more than it should have for the rights. Both 1992 sites provided for excellent television coverage of the Games.

Despite travel difficulties, the Savoie region in France, had spectacular venues and Barcelona had its own special character that produced delightful visual effects.

Lillehammer, 1994

A further development had occurred in 1988 when the IOC came to understand that instead of having both Games in the same year, it would probably be able to increase its revenue stream if the Games cycle was to be split.

The Winter Games would henceforth take place two years before the Summer Games, so that broadcasters would not have to fund two Games within the same fiscal period. In addition, the Olympic profile would be highlighted every two years instead of every four years. The IOC had several winter candidates at the time and chose Lillehammer, Norway.

These Games were scheduled for 1994, to be inserted between the Barcelona and Atlanta Games.

The decision to have stand-alone Games led to some special negotiating circumstances. ABC was still gun-shy, CBS had enjoyed its Albertville re-entry into Olympic broadcasting and NBC seemed far more interested in Summer Games than Winter Games, so we had the potential of having no real contest for the rights.

We dealt with that unattractive possibility by saying to CBS that, if we could agree on a price, we might be prepared to consider a pre-emptive negotiation with them and to close out the other networks, but to do that, we would need a price in the range of \$300 million. There were cautious indications, but no commitment, that this would be possible. We then went to the other networks to say that we were ready to negotiate, but that we wanted to talk at the level of \$300 million. Both NBC and ABC said that price was too high, so we

were able to talk with CBS alone and agreed on \$300 million, a good deal for CBS, which was able to keep its Albertville team together and to broadcast two Games in two years, a sequence which would give it a chance to establish itself as a Winter Games network.¹

Atlanta, 1996

Atlanta was next in line, having beaten Athens in the 1990 contest to host the Centennial Games. There had been a seamless united front presented by Atlanta and the surrounding communities before the bid was won. This began to crack almost immediately.

Atlanta's Organising Committee (ACOG) itself was essentially impecunious. Not a cent of public money would be available and ACOG would have to raise all its money (some \$1.5 billion) from the private sector, which put enormous pressure on the revenue side of the equation, often at the expense of sport and efficient organization of the Games.

With respect to television, the IOC and ACOG had different perspectives regarding timing of the negotiations: the slumping U.S. television market was improving, but only gradually, and the IOC was convinced that a few months would see even greater improvement. ACOG did not agree and, furthermore, needed the television contract to be in place as soon as possible, for purposes of borrowing to finance the construction of the Olympic Stadium, an important project which had a schedule allowing no room for any delays. We said that Atlanta had to understand and accept that the eventual amount would be less now than if we were to wait before negotiating. Even though the IOC could have forced a delay, we did not want to put the Games at risk as a result of construction delays, all of which would certainly be blamed on the IOC. ACOG decided that it could not wait, so we agreed to proceed with the negotiations in June 1993. We had the usual difficulties with the usual self-imagined omniscience of the ACOG consultants, a firm of investment bankers engaged to provide technical, tactical, strategic and financial advice on the negotiations. Against all our advice, the consultants re-wrote the existing television contracts with a huge bias in favour of ACOG. Prior to the negotiations, we sent the networks draft terms, based on the Atlanta-drafted contracts. The lightning did not take long to strike. NBC, the incumbent broadcaster for the past two Games, was so furious that it would not even take part in negotiations under such conditions and said it would undertake an active campaign throughout the U.S., Japan and Europe on the grounds that the broadcasters were being exploited by Atlanta and the IOC. The other two networks were less categorical, but said that if the deal was to be as described, their bids

would be much lower than might otherwise have been expected.

It took time and much unnecessary work to get the networks back on track and NBC was again the winner in a two-step negotiation with a bid of \$456 million. Surmising correctly that it would be bidding against itself, NBC chose not to increase its bid from the first round and the other networks had only marginally increased theirs. Nevertheless, it was the largest contract in Olympic history, although Atlanta was disappointed, having hoped for \$600 million (that expectation had been grudgingly reduced to \$500 million) and, despite Atlanta's refusal to wait for the market to improve, it somehow became the IOC's "fault" that their unrealistic expectation had not been achieved. The point made regarding the lower rights fees resulting from the ACOG's insistence on timing of the negotiations would be driven home when the negotiations for Sydney occurred two years later and prior to the Atlanta Games.

Nagano, 1998

The negotiations for Nagano 1998 took place just prior to the Lillehammer Games in 1994. NBC had commissioned an exploratory mission to Nagano, but was not willing to bid at a level commensurate with the rumoured level of expectation. This was also the case for ABC, still nervous about its loss on the Calgary Games six years earlier. This left only CBS and the cash-rich Fox network, which had still to broadcast a single sports event in the U.S. For precisely that reason, the bidding procedures specified that the IOC would not be bound to take the highest offer. We grew increasingly uneasy about risking the Olympic broadcast on a network with neither North American nor Olympic experience and eventually advised Fox that we did not want to take that risk. We then negotiated a record deal with CBS at \$375 million, with the networks all having scripted their own exit lines and none were embarrassed about having bid either too much or too little.

Sydney, 2000 and Salt Lake City, 2002

In 1993, Sydney, with some questionable last-minute tactics, had beaten Beijing by the narrowest margin to win the right to host the 2000 Olympic Games. The dynamic had been interesting, since this was China's first bid to host Olympic Games and the prospect of Games in China was appealing in many respects. China was, however, uneasy about the scope of such a bid and did not really have sufficient infrastructure in place to host at the level expected for Olympic Games. Nor was it sufficiently comfortable with international relations, sport and otherwise, that would have assured suitable Games. The electoral choice

was between, on the one hand, breaking new ground with the most populous country in the world and, on the other hand, having essentially risk-free Games in the experienced sport country of Australia. The dates set for the Games, basically the last half of September, were not convenient for U.S. programming, since both university and professional sports were in season and the networks already had major financial and programming commitments. We even explored the possibility of having NBC and ABC share the Olympic rights and had several meetings with them to discuss how this might work, but eventually concluded that the joint marketing and scheduling dynamics would be too complex to be feasible.

A paradigm shift in Olympic television negotiations then occurred. NBC approached us with a pre-emptive offer for the combined rights to Sydney and Salt Lake City. Their management expected to lose money on a stand-alone Sydney Games, but thought they could make up for those losses with domestic Games in 2002. The combined offer was \$1.25 billion, but was open for only a very short period. Samaranch was attending the Athletics World Championships in Sweden and was aware of the offer, but advised NBC had to speak with me and simply said the offer was impressive. I called Samaranch the following day to report that I had now met with NBC and thought we should accept the offer, with which he agreed. Meeting in Montreal, we prepared and signed a brief acceptance of the offer, to be followed by a formal contract, but the largest-ever Olympic television business “deal” was made in record time.

This enabled the IOC to provide amounts to both OCOGs that were well in excess of their forecast budgeted amounts. \$705 million was allocated to Sydney and \$545 million to Salt Lake City.² Both OCOGs were more than satisfied with the outcome and agreed to be present at the announcement in New York the following week. Even the USOC raised none of its usual roadblocks. We left NBC with the job of advising ABC that the joint Sydney programme discussed by both networks was now off the table and the IOC undertook to advise CBS that it would not be broadcasting the 2002 Winter Games.

2004, 2006 and 2008 Games – a Second Olympic Television Package

The Sydney-Salt Lake City arrangement was the first time that the IOC had negotiated television rights for a “package” of Games. We did not know at the time how such an initiative would resonate with the networks, but the reception for the idea was quite positive, including in markets outside the U.S. Indeed, so much so that IOC President Samaranch immediately want-

ed to explore negotiations for further similar packages, both to benefit from the certainty that they would provide and so that the IOC could advise future host cities in advance how much they would receive from television, a major question mark in all candidate city budgets. We extended the scope of the next package to three Games, in order to have television agreements that corresponded with the marketing cycle for the IOC’s international sponsorship programme (TOP), which would also be more convenient for television advertising sponsors.

None of the host cities for these Games (2004, 2006 and 2008) had yet been selected, so the previous negotiating dynamic of IOC-OCOG relationships was not present and the IOC had sole control of the Olympic side of the process. The eventual host cities were Athens (2004), Torino (2006) and Beijing (2008).

There were several interesting issues to be considered. First, we had no idea how quickly and how extensively the television industry would evolve over the next decade, so whatever structure we gave to the negotiations would need to be flexible enough to respond, in mutual good faith, to changes that could be very significant. Second, we advised NBC that it should negotiate on the basis that none of the Games included in the package would be held in the U.S. or even in North America. If there were to be U.S. or North American Games, we would come back to negotiate an appropriate increase in the applicable rights fee. Third, the packages would be “television” packages. Other forms of potential media rights, whatever they might be or become, including, for example, interactive rights, were not included in the negotiations.³ Finally, as a specific instruction from Samaranch, the negotiations were to be secret. Our code name was “the Sunset Project”.

Arrangements of this nature allowed the IOC to demonstrate that selection of Olympic host cities was not determined as a result of media pressure, in particular from the U.S., by far the largest source of Olympic revenues.

Multi-Games Arrangements

Many broadcasters recognized the benefits of negotiating for more than one Olympiad at a time. Examples (a non-exhaustive list) include: Seven West Media Limited package for 2016, 2018 and 2020, announced in 2014 and extended in 2020 to include 2022; China Media Group negotiated a package in 2021 for 2026, 2028, 2030 and 2032; NBC in the United States made a deal in 2011 for 2016, 2018 and 2020, followed by a new agreement in 2014 for the Games in 2022, 2024, 2026, 2028, 2030 and 2032; in Canada, contracts were awarded to CTV Rogers Communications in 2005

for 2010 and 2012 and to CBC/Radio Canada in 2012 for 2014 and 2016; in Asia, Dentsu Inc. was awarded rights in 2013 for 2014 and 2016 in 17 Asian countries and in 2015 was extended in 2015 to 22 Asian countries for 2018, 2020, 2022 and 2024; for Brazil in 2009, Globo Comunicação e Participações S. A. was awarded a package of broadcast rights for 2014 and 2016 and in 2015 a package for 2018, 2020, 2022, 2024, 2026, 2028, 2030 and 2032 was announced; in 2004 EBU was awarded rights for 2010 and 2012; France Televisions was awarded rights for 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2020 in 2011; in 2012 it was announced that BBC had been awarded a package covering 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2020; and Discovery and Eurosport were granted the rights for 2018, 2020, 2022 and 2024.

A 2009 tender process resulted in multiple grants of rights by markets. In Asia, starting in 2008 (and more explicitly in 2010 and 2012) the IOC began to negotiate separate packages including free-to-air, Pay TV and digital, or a combination of these.

2004 – Athens

Athens had been selected as host city in 1997. Although it had campaigned vigorously (albeit ineffectively) in 1990 for the 1996 Centennial Games, a choice of Athens at that time would have been an organizational disaster. Greece was not then a member of the EC, had no sources of major credits for infrastructure and Athens had an airport regarded by many as the most unsafe in all of Europe. That said, the IOC knew full well that a return to Athens was inevitable. By 1997, there had been enough progress that, on this occasion, with an aggressive and well-managed campaign, it was feasible to consider Games in 2004, despite the known and suspected difficulties that would be encountered, including financial, organizational, political, construction, transportation and security (both domestic and international). All those difficulties were present as expected.

Television, however, was well organized and well delivered. The Host Broadcast Organization, directed by Manolo Romero was, by then, extremely competent and included two individuals in particular destined to play major roles in the future evolution of Olympic television, namely Yiannis Exarchos and Stefanos Kourelas. Exarchos, born in Athens in 1964, was a senior executive of the Athens 2004 broadcast organization (Athens Olympic Broadcasting – AOB) and all subsequent Olympic Host Broadcasters. He was destined to become Chief Executive Officer of Olympic Broadcasting Services (OBS) following the London Games in 2012, in a planned and seamlessly executed succession from Romero, and later added the role of Executive Director of Olympic Channel Services



Olympic Broadcasting Services Chief Executive Yiannis Exarchos

Picture Olympic Broadcasting Services

in 2015. Kourelas had joined AOB in 2001 and would spend four years thereafter in Beijing before moving to Madrid with OBS.

2006 – Torino

2006 saw the Winter Games back in Europe. They were, oddly enough, not enthusiastically embraced by much of Italy. The television broadcasts were, however, well organized and well delivered.

2008 – Beijing

That China would be as close to a certainty to host the 2008 Olympic Games as could be imagined was evidenced by its 2001 first-round victory over second-place Toronto. Beijing had learned much from its initial bidding experience in 1993 and was better prepared on this occasion. In addition, China was far more comfortable with its increasing presence on the world stage. While the adverse impact of the 1989 events in Tiananmen Square had receded to some degree, there was considerable discomfort regarding its policies in Tibet and concerns about freedom of expression that resonated throughout the preparations for the Games and during the Games themselves. Manifestation of opposition to Beijing's hosting was made easier by an ill-advised international Torch Relay prior to the Games. The IOC also proved unable to ensure that Chinese commitments to freedom of expression and of the press were honoured.

The Beijing Games were the first in which OBS, created by the IOC in 2001, played an active role as part of the Host Broadcasting function. 4 Based on its initial success in Beijing, OBS has acted as the host broadcaster at all subsequent Games. The outcome has been a quantum improvement in the quality of Olym-



The Television studios on the Olympic Park at Sochi 2014

Picture JOH Archive

pic broadcasting, from both a technical and creative perspective. A fuller description of OBS, its formation, objectives and achievements will be contained in the final segment of this series, to be published later this year.

Following Beijing in 2008, the IOC began a process of tendering rights by markets, particularly in areas traditionally served by broadcast unions, such as EBU. Fees generated through such unions had been kept artificially low and the IOC leadership had opted to prioritize the reach of the audiences delivered over insisting on the fair market value of the broadcast rights in each market sector. This is an evolution that remains a work in progress.

2010 – Vancouver

These were the first Games at which OBS was fully responsible as Host Broadcaster and marked a change in the IOC's delivery of Games. It could now rely on OBS to produce signals of the highest quality.

OBS was also able to work with rights-holding broadcasters to coordinate their programming for their particular audiences, enabling them to have access to the vast IOC archives of official films, interviews,

previous Olympic broadcasts and background shots of the host cities and facilities. These are all matters that produce better and more comprehensive coverage for worldwide audiences and which can save the rights-holding broadcasters significant expenses in the provision of Olympic coverage. Such services include, for smaller markets, the provision of high-lights packages. This enabled local broadcasters were able to produce their own programmes without the expense of sending their own production teams to the host cities to produce their own programs. An additional benefit is that the host city/country does not have to find or create a host broadcaster responsible for the basic coverage of the Games and may rely on OBS to perform all of the necessary functions, executed by experts, on a cost-recovery basis.

2012 – London

OBS continued its role as host broadcaster, on this occasion taking full advantage of the historic past of London and iconic sites.

2014 – Sochi

With new and untested sites, the challenge was to establish and install the best camera positions and other technical aspects of coverage, exacerbated by the time available for this work to be done, given the massive extent of the Olympic projects, at sea level and in the mountain venues. OBS was equal to the challenges and ensured an excellent Olympic broadcast of the Sochi Games.

2016 – Rio de Janeiro

It is no exaggeration to conclude that the Rio de Janeiro Games were saved by OBS. What spectators saw on the screen was excellent programming, superbly produced. On the ground, however, the situation was chaotic, on the brink of catastrophic failure during every day of the Games. Unlike most OCOGs, which may encounter problems during the first few days, the Rio OCOG did not improve over time. Scheduled events did not take place when they were supposed to and in many cases the venues were not available. OBS was able to insert programming in place of what would otherwise have been dead air and television spectators were none the wiser, enjoying well-produced coverage of the world's best athletes in Olympic competition.

2018 – PyeongChang

OBS established its main broadcast centre in the alpine area, not the lower part of the host city, which has generally been the operational model at Winter Games. This proved to be very successful and the coverage of the events was at the professional level now expected for Olympic Games.

2020 – Tokyo

Like everyone else, OBS was a victim of the COVID-19 pandemic and placed in suspended animation for a year when the Games were postponed until 2021. Even so, there was no guarantee that it would be possible for the Games to proceed without increased health risk to Olympic participants and the Japanese public until very shortly before the Games were scheduled to begin. In the end, no spectators were permitted and access to Japan by foreigners with no direct involvement in the organisation of the Games was effectively prohibited. Public opinion regarding the postponed Games had become quite negative, some of which had spread to elements of the OCOG involved in the televising of the Games. OBS and Rights-Holding Broadcasters experienced less than fulsome cooperation from the OCOG on the implementing of efficient administrative and operational protocols, which made delivering the broadcast of the Games much more difficult than expected from an OCOG that was other-



The Broadcast cabin used by TV Globo

PictureJOH Archive

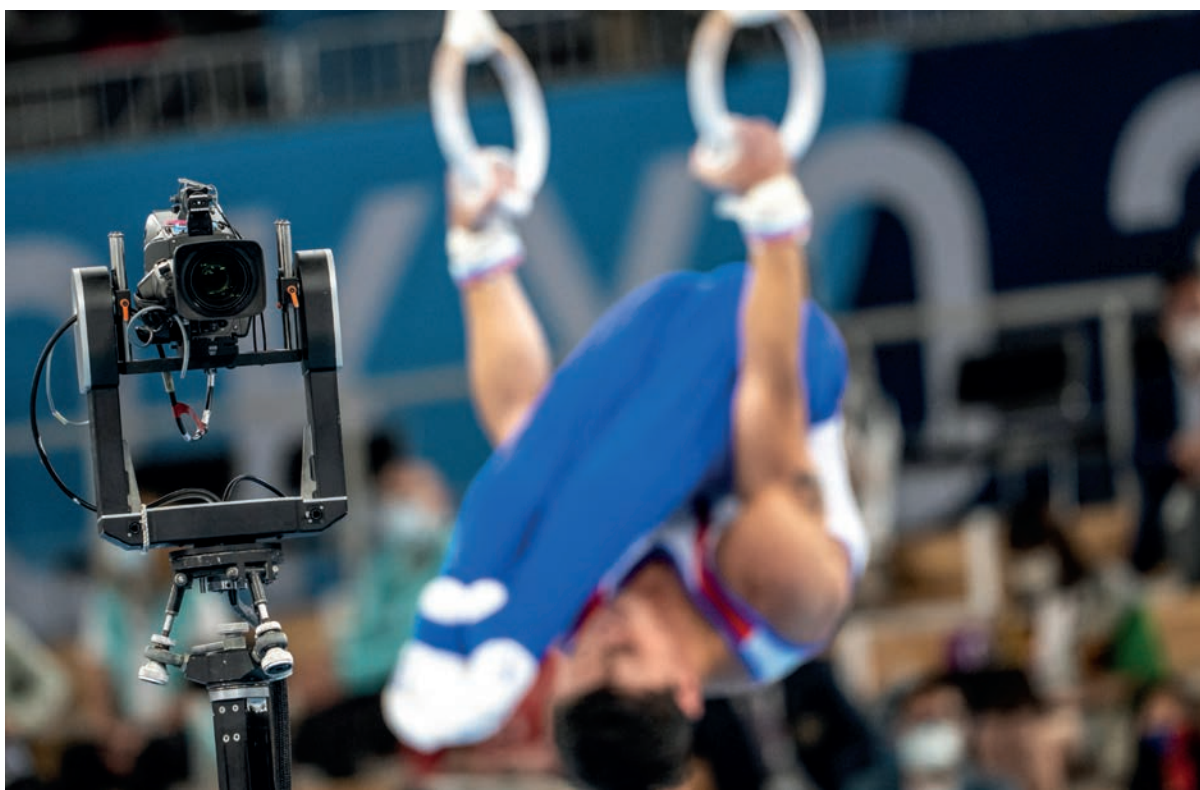
wise exceptionally able, especially on the infrastructure front. The safety measures proved to be effective and the Games, while different from traditional Olympics, were nevertheless spectacular. OBS was able to develop some very creative features, in the absence of live spectators, including much greater emphasis on the sounds of competition and live interaction with remote fans. As is invariably the case, the athletes won over the audiences with both their spirit and their performances and public opinion in Japan regarding Tokyo 2020 turned from negative to positive.

2022 – Beijing

China was acutely alert to concerns over COVID-19. As a result Beijing organizers built on the Tokyo “bubble” model with a “Closed Loop System,” considerably more robust than Tokyo’s, which operated very effectively during the Games period. Operationally, Beijing demonstrated why the IOC had been confident that it could deliver spectacular Games to the world. From the television perspective, the short period between Tokyo 2020 (in 2021) and Beijing put some pressure on the installation activities, but OBS took the necessary steps to ensure that everything was ready in time for the Games.

Bumps Along the Road

It would be misleading to suggest that everything was smooth-sailing once the IOC stepped in to take control of Olympic broadcasting, but at least it became possible to plan on the basis of an Olympic continuum and not as an unconnected set of discrete spectacles. Public expectation regarding the extent and quality



A bespoke camera captures the detail at the gymnastics arena

Picture Olympic Broadcasting Services

of programming of Olympic broadcasting expanded rapidly.

The previous practice, whereby broadcasters determined what their audiences would see, and when, became a thing of the past. Audiences now wanted to experience the Games in their own way, following specific sports, following athletes and teams. They wished to have access to historical footage, information about athletes, the history of particular sports or events, changes in equipment and rules – in short, to become their own Olympic directors, designing their own Olympic coverage.

In addition, as the television rights fees began to increase dramatically, demands within the Olympic Family for a share of those revenues grew with them. Some were generic, in the sense of being common to International Sports Federations (IFs), or to National Olympic committees (NOCs) and others, including athletes and to related organizations. Significant shares go to the OCOGs, which have the immediate responsibility of organising their particular editions of the Games. This has now been done by a percentage allocation, rather than fixed amounts, which is generally true for all of the generic shares. The IOC is not in a position to guarantee fixed amounts from revenues that are generally market-driven and can vary accordingly, even significantly, as a result of

domestic and world market and general economic conditions and which may be affected by unforeseen consequences.

Revenues for the IFs are approximately one-third of the net revenues accruing to the Olympic Movement. The principal issue is how to allocate those revenues among the participating IFs. The IOC does not purport to make those decisions, which should be made by agreement among the IFs. Shares for the NOCs are allocated through Olympic Solidarity, which allocates its distributions on a continental basis. Individual NOCs, with one major exception, do not have direct access to any share of the television revenues.

That exception has been USOC (now USOPC, although references to periods prior to the name change will be to the USOC). That position has been identified in previous instalments of this series.⁵ It has been a source of constant friction, involving efforts by the USOC to increase its share and to take control of all Olympic television negotiations and all revenues generated in the U. S. , including by means of domestic legislation introduced to accomplish such objective, effectively expropriating the intellectual property rights of the IOC. Those efforts have been forestalled. Just prior to the 1996 Olympic Games, the IOC discovered that the USOC had negotiated some provisions in an omnibus Bill before the U. S. Congress that declared all

U. S. Olympic television rights to be the property of the USOC.

When confronted with this, USOC officials denied all knowledge of the initiative. The IOC rejected that explanation and insisted that the offending portion of the Bill be removed.

The USOC conduct became so objectionable that it was necessary, on one occasion, to summoned the USOC to a formal meeting, at which the IOC President (Samaranch) warned that if this conduct continued, the IOC would revoke its recognition of the USOC. He said this would obviously be financially significant for the IOC, but it was a price the IOC was prepared to pay to establish the principle.

Samaranch reminded the USOC that this would mean no U. S. athletes would participate in the Games (since athletes are entered only by recognized NOCs) and that the USOC would have no right to use Olympic designations or the five rings. It would have no Olympic status whatsoever. The Olympic Games would never again be hosted in the United States. The choice was for the USOC to make. To hear that from the IOC President, who rarely spoke that bluntly other than in the most serious circumstances, demonstrated, even to the USOC, that it was on very dangerous ground. The USOC backed away from the abyss.

Interactive Issues

The IOC, perhaps like most organizations, did not foresee the extent to which interactive technology would have an impact on the communications space, although it was clear that even if it might not be suitable for “broadcasting” the Olympic Games, it could provide valuable enhancements of the traditional forms of Olympic coverage and could possibly be monetized.

This was the reason why the interactive rights were kept separate from the television rights. One matter that initially escaped IOC notice was the difference between broadcast rights, which were allocated on the basis of defined territories, in which the rights-holding broadcasters (RHBs) were able to choose what coverage would be provided, how it would be presented and when it would be scheduled, and the instantaneous nature of an interactive world without boundaries.

Most RHBs did not want Olympic coverage to be available in their territories until after they had broadcast their own programming. This could easily have become a bone of contention with the RHBs, so the initial solution was to simply award the interactive rights to the RHBs along with the television rights and to watch how the two technologies interacted. It was

clear that neither would disappear, but equally clear that “delivery” of the Olympic Games would no longer be restricted to conventional television coverage and would extend to mobile platforms.

The digital platforms and technologies have added new levels of enhancement to Olympic coverage and RHB “gatekeeper” management has been generally successful.

From the 2008 Beijing Games, different digital packages have been created by the IOC itself on its own platforms, with certain digital-specific broadcasters, as well as internet and mobile broadcasting rights. Detailed inventories of such arrangements are beyond the scope of an article of this nature, but they are extensive and many have been extended beyond their original terms, with the joint objective of maximising the overall reach on as many platforms as feasible and of maximizing the monetization for the Olympic Movement.

From ‘Overcaution’ to ‘Full Immersion’

The IOC was admittedly slow on the uptake when television began to emerge as part of the communications revolution in the mid-20th Century.

Some of the considerations included that, in the initial years, the medium was, technically, not ready for instant worldwide dissemination and was, in effect, initially limited to local or regional areas.

Not until satellite technology was developed in the 1960s did it become it feasible to contemplate specific international broadcasting operations.

The IOC was certainly aware of the potential of television to bring more sports to more people, but was too small and impecunious to be a serious player.

Its economics and structure inhibited any concerted action. As an organization that relied upon subscriptions levied against its members to support a minimal staff and which relied on members with sufficient personal funds to pay their travel and accommodation expenses, spread over many continents, it was financially unfeasible to assume any risks in relation to a medium that was not well understood. Hence the IOC left television matters in the hands of OCOGs, although it notionally retained the right of final approval in respect of contracts.

It was a model which lasted until Juan Antonio Samaranch became IOC President. Not only had he witnessed a substantial increase in the amounts generated by television rights in respect of Moscow and Los Angeles, but Samaranch also understood that the IOC needed to take control of its largest source of revenues in order to have increasing influence within international sport.



Manolo Romero, pioneer of Olympic television

Picture Olympic Broadcasting Services

This would also give the IOC a degree of financial and operational independence from governments, yet another lesson from the 1980 Moscow Olympics. Samaranch's only real "blind spot" had been with respect to negotiations with broadcast consortia, led by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) which was essentially a group comprising state broadcasters.

- 1 Although there had been no commitment to \$300 million from CBS, it was the number discussed with the IOC and disclosed to the other networks in order to clear the path for a separate discussion with CBS. There was, therefore, no effort on either side to change the number.
- 2 Atlanta may have wished, in retrospect, that it had followed the IOC's advice and waited longer to negotiate. Sydney, half way around the world, had obtained almost 50% more than Games in the Eastern time zone in the U. S. at a very unattractive time of year for Games that competed with many other televised sport events in the U. S. market.
- 3 Interactive rights had the potential to impact the presentation of the Games on traditional television. Rights-holding broadcasters around the world were accustomed to tailoring their broadcasts to

The EBU resolutely refused to pay anything like the fair market value of the Olympic rights. Indeed, at one stage, it was paying more for re-runs of the popular U. S. drama series "Dallas" than for the rights to the entire Olympic Games.

Since the end of the Samaranch era, the approach has changed and rights are now sold directly to individual broadcasters.

The last forty years have seen a remarkable acceleration of the IOC's role in the television space and the digital world and its contributions to creative content and worldwide distribution of programming across the complete spectrum of communications.

It may not be too much of an exaggeration to state that today's IOC has been made by television.

Manolo Romero 1941–2022

International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach hailed OBS Founder Manolo as a "legend and pioneer in the sports broadcasting industry," Romero died at the age of 81 in December from cancer.

Manolo Romero has left an indelible mark on the broadcast of the Olympic Games and was respected worldwide for his vision, technological expertise and overall passion for the Olympic Movement.

Romero had begun his television career with Televisión Espanola (TVE) and covered his first Olympics in 1968.

He was a key figure in establishing the concept of a dedicated 'host broadcaster' to provide the international television signal and a founder of OBS.

He led the organisation until 2012.

- 4 suit the convenience of their audiences, so that while the full Games were broadcast for those audiences, the broadcasts were not necessarily (depending on the applicable time zones) "live" broadcasts and could be structured into "stories" by the broadcaster in the particular area. Interactive rights were both instant and universally available, which could mean that outcomes could be public well before they were available through television, the broadcast rights for which had been acquired at some significant cost
- 5 OBS will be considered in more detail in the forthcoming final instalment of the IOC's evolving role in Olympic television.
- 5 The purported foundation for such a position was the palpably foolish claim that any fee paid by a U. S. advertiser for Olympic television programming was deducted from revenues that those advertisers would otherwise have paid directly to the USOC.



Spreading Coubertin's word

Exploring new frontiers in 2023

By Stephan Wassong



Conrado Duránte receives a commemorative bust from International Pierre de Coubertin Committee President Stephan Wassong

Photo International Pierre de Coubertin Committee



The International Pierre de Coubertin Committee met in Lausanne

Photo International Pierre de Coubertin Committee

International Pierre de Coubertin Committee (IPCC) Honorary President Conrado Duránte has been presented with a commemorative bust of Coubertin thanking him for many years of excellent guidance and presidency at the 2023 IPCC General Assembly held in Lausanne.

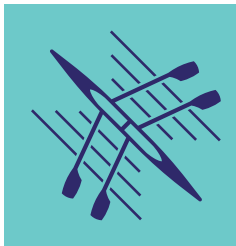
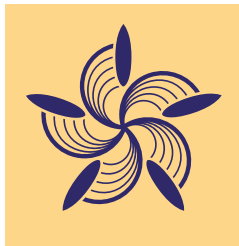
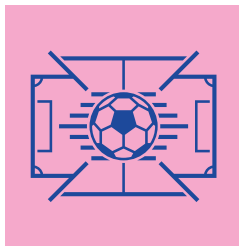
24 IPCC members travelled to Lausanne for the meeting held on January 28, and a further 29 were connected online, including founding member Jacques Guhl. 14 others sent apologies for absence. The assembly was preceded by an executive board meeting the day before.

Delegates heard a report on the editing of the *Pierre de Coubertin Reference Document*, a joint project between the IPCC, the IOC's Olympic Studies Centre of the IOC and its Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage and the French Pierre de Coubertin Committee.

A further project is to translate Coubertin's *Olympic Memoirs* into Hindi and Swahili, the strengthening of

the partnerships with the ISOH and the International Olympic Academy, the support of the IV Pierre de Coubertin Latin American Symposium scheduled for Uruguay 2023 and the planning of the IPCC's 50th in 2025. It has been decided that the National Pierre de Coubertin Committees will present their reports at a meeting that will soon be scheduled. The General Assembly highlighted the importance of six educational, social and academic projects to be developed in 2023 by national Pierre de Coubertin committees in Argentina, Colombia, France, India, South Africa and Uruguay. The IPCC has funded them all.

GAMES WIDE OPEN



© Marseille: Edmund Sumner-VIEW/Alamy Stock Photo

Women and the Olympic Flame for Tokyo and Beijing

By Myles Garcia



Anna Korakaki receives the Olympic Flame from High Priestess Anna Korakaki in Ancient Olympia

Picture JOH Archive

In a year from now, the Olympic Torch Relay for Paris 2024 is set to begin.

Although both were affected by COVID-19, the Relays conducted for Tokyo and Beijing both contained innovations that deserve a record.

They are historic Olympic milestones which bring the whole feminine side of Olympic persona full circle.

First Female Greek Athlete to Receive the Flame

On 12th March 2020 the Olympic Flame for Tokyo 2020 was lit in Ancient Olympia.

It was the 36th time that a Flame had been lit since the concept of a Relay was introduced in 1936.

It was lit in bright sunshine.

The first runner to directly receive the Tokyo Flame from high priestess Xanthi Georgiou was Rio 2016 shooting gold medallist Anna Korakaki.

At a stroke, this brought a seemingly iron clad tradition in which the first bearer had always been male which had lasted 84 years to an end.

The historic feminine chain was continued when Korakaki passed the torch to the second runner, Japan's 2004 women's marathon champion Mizuki Noguichi. When the Relay reached the village of Olympia, other women carried the Flame.

Shreya Krishnan, a young ambassador from Colorado Springs carried the Torch in the streets of Olympia. She was joined by Gretchen Helpenstell from Olympia Washington, who was invited to participate at short notice because so many of those invited from Japan had been forced to stay at home.

"This is Sparta!"

The following day, the Flame visited Sparta, some 90 kilometres from Olympia in the Peloponnese.

13 March 2020 saw the participation of two Hollywood film stars.

2020 was also the 2500th anniversary of the battle of Thermopylae in 480 BC, which also happened to be an Olympic year.

The site of the battle had been included on the fourth day of the original itinerary.

The mayor of Sparta had invited actor Gerard Butler who played King Leonidas in '300' a film which told the story of the heroic battle.

There was also an invitation for Billy Zane, another Hollywood film star. Although American born, Zane's family was originally from Sparta.

He had played Cal Hockley in the 1997 epic "Titanic". Butler and Zane had both carried the Torch and posed with the Flame beneath the statue of the Spartan warrior in the centre of the town.

Butler parodied the words from his famous speech in "300" to declaim "This is Tokyo 2020,"

The combination of the two film stars, the Olympic Flame and glorious spring weather combined to attract a large crowd.

The Hellenic Olympic Committee (HOC) subsequently announced that the Torch Relay was to be suspended. "Despite strong recommendations to the public not to focus on the ceremony in the flame crossing cities, the HOC took the difficult but necessary decision to cancel the rest of the programme on Greek soil." said an official statement

"The decision was made in consultation with the ministry of health and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) with a deep sense of responsibility, as public health is the ultimate good and in these difficult times a reasonable attitude is imposed by all sides."

Instead of continuing its planned journey around Greece, the Flame was taken directly to Athens.

Meanwhile a small tripod was constructed in the empty Panathenaic Stadium in Athens.

No members of the public were permitted to attend a short Ceremony, conducted in front of a small party of dignitaries.

The Flame entered carried by 2016 Olympic pole vault champion Katerina Stefanidi.

The Ceremony was attended only by a small number of invited guests and officials.

It had been intended that triple Olympic champions Tadahiro Nomura and Saori Yoshida would travel to Athens to receive the Flame but the arrangements were cancelled.

Instead Naoko Imoto, a swimmer who had competed for Japan at the 1996 Olympics received the Olympic Flame on behalf of Tokyo 2020 at a shortened ceremony at the historic Panathenaic Stadium in Athens.



Shreya Krishnan(back to camera) from Colorado Springs hands the Flame to Gretchen Helpenstell from Olympia Washington as the Relay leaves Ancient Olympia

Picture JOH Archive

Wearing a jacket in cherry red, the national colour of Japan, Imoto received the Flame from HOC President Spyros Capralos.

Imoto was drafted in with less than a day's notice after Tokyo 2020. She had been working in Athens for the United Nations children's charity (UNICEF)

That afternoon the Flame began its journey to Tokyo in a special plane, decorated with the emblems and look of the Olympic Torch Relay.

Now You See it, Now You Don't

The Flame finally arrived in Fukushima, Japan on 20 March 2020.

It was the first to have flown on a Japan Airlines Boeing 787 Dreamliner craft.

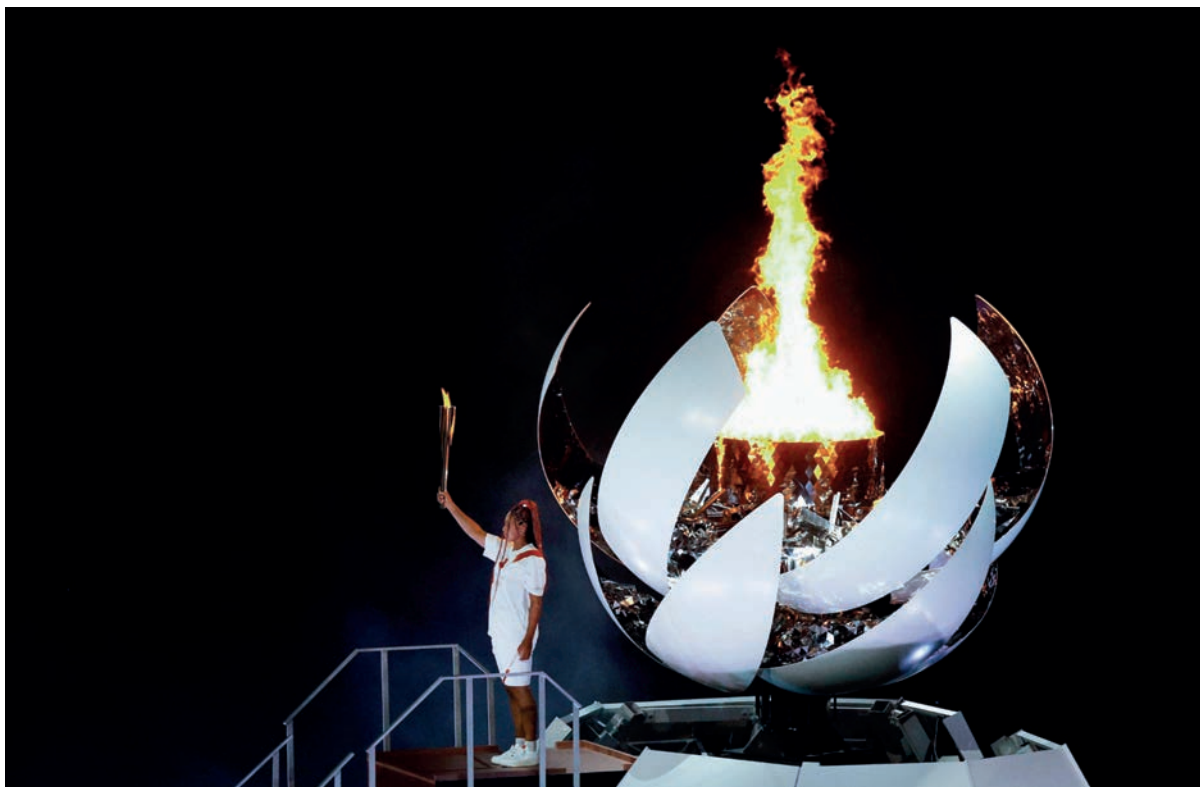
There was a brief Welcome Ceremony for what was to have been the start of the domestic Torch Relay.

Soon however, much of the world shut down as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

After a brief journey on a train and displayed at a public railway station, the Flame was put on display in a lantern at the new mini-Olympic Museum in Tokyo near the new Olympic Stadium until 25 March 2021.

When the Tokyo Relay restarted a year later in Fukushima, Paralympic shooter Aki Taguchi and actress Satomi Ishihara, both Torch Relay ambassadors, wore face masks as they ignited a ceremonial cauldron with a taper lit from a Flame kept alight since March 2020.

Children from local primary and junior high schools had combined to sing Hana Wa Saku (Flowers Will Bloom) and there was a dance performance from the



Tennis player Naomi Osaka lit the cauldron in Tokyo's Olympic Stadium

Picture © International Olympic Committee

“Hula Girls”, a local troupe which had toured Japan after the 2011 earthquake.

The Flame was then carried by members of Japan’s victorious 2011 FIFA Women’s World Cup squad.

Footballer Azusa Iwashimizu led some 15 fellow squad members known as “Nadeshiko Japan” as they carried the Flame through the precincts of the J-Village national football training centre in Fukushima in bright sunlight. They were joined by coach Norio Sasaki.

This set off the 121-day torch relay, conducted under the most stringent health measures ever seen at an Olympic Torch Relay.

When the Games finally began at a largely empty Olympic Stadium on 23 July 2021, Anna Korakaki, the first Torch Bearer, was selected to lead the Parade of Nations as joint Greek flag-bearer with gymnast Eleftherios Petrounias.

This was in accordance with an International Olympic Committee recommendation that wherever possible, there should be a male and female flag bearer.

The choice of Korakaki and Petrounias echoed a similar template from 1964 when hurdler Georgios Marseellos had been the first torchbearer in Olympia and was then chosen as Greek flagbearer at the Opening Ceremony.

The City cauldron

Two cauldrons were employed for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, a practice begun at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics.

That year a large structure had taken shape at the Opening Ceremony inside BC Place Stadium.

After the Ceremony, the Flame was taken to a harbour-side site where it was on public display.

The trend was followed in 2016 when marathon runner Wanderlei de Lima ignited the stadium cauldron at the Maracana.

In the small hours of the following morning, Jorge Gomes, an aspiring athlete young boy from the favelas was hoisted to the top of a crane to ignite a mobile cauldron at Candelaria in Rio’s naval quarter.

In 2021, tennis star Naomi Osaka had lit the show cauldron at the Olympic Stadium.

A few hours later 2016 badminton gold medallist Ayaka Takahashi set alight another cauldron, placed at the Ariake Yume-no-Hashi Bridge on Tokyo’s waterfront.

As the Games came to an end, there was another feminine first at the Flag Handover, when for the first time in history, the Olympic flag was passed between two female city representatives.



Soprano Vassiliki Karagianni who sang the Olympic anthem at the Beijing 2022 Flame Lighting Ceremony

Picture JOH Archive



China's Olympic freestyle skiing silver medallist Li Nina passes the Flame to Greek biathlete Paraskevi Ladopoulou beneath the Flags at the Handover Ceremony in Athens

Picture JOH Archive

Tokyo Governor-general of Tokyo, Yuriko Koike, handed the flag to IOC President Thomas Bach who then passed it over to Anne Hidalgo, current mayor of Paris 2024. It was not the first time that female mayors had participated in a Handover Ceremony.

Dee Dee Corradini of Salt Lake City received the Ceremonial Oslo Flag during the 1998 Closing Ceremony in Nagano.

In 2004 Athens mayor Dora Bakoyannis took part in the Handover Ceremony for Beijing 2008.

When Beijing received its own Flame at Olympia in 2008

Luo Xuejuan China's 2004 Olympic 100 metres breast-stroke swimming gold medalist had been the first woman to carry it taking over from the late Alexandros Nikolaidis, a taekwondo silver medallist outside the Coubertin Grove in Olympia.

In October 2021, Beijing became the first city to have received the Olympic Flame from Olympia both a Summer and Winter Games.

The Lighting Ceremony was directed by Artemis Ignatiou who had directed the Ceremony for the first time in 2008.

She had first taken part in the Flame lighting Ceremony as a young dancer in 1988 and had learned from Maria Hors, a participant in the inaugural Flame

Lighting Ceremony who had directed each Ceremony since 1964.

At the Closing Ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics, the Olympic Anthem had been sung by a counter tenor. In Olympia for Beijing 2022, soprano Vassiliki Karagianni became the first female soloist to perform it in the precincts of the ancient site.

The first torchbearer was skier Ioannis Antoniou who had previously been the first bearer in the Relay to the 2014 Sochi Games.

He became the first to receive the flame from two different high priestesses.

After skier Antoniou visited the memorial stele to Baron Pierre de Coubertin, he handed the 2022 flame to Li Jiajun, a male Chinese speed skater who completed a short run.

This was concluded before it reached the bridge leading into the village of Olympia.

The Flame was subsequently taken directly to Athens by car.

There had nonetheless been a demonstration by human rights protesters who had succeeded in infiltrating the precincts of the ancient site.

The flame spent the night at the Acropolis and then the next day, 19 October 2021, it was taken to the Panathinaiko Stadium for the handover to Beijing



Greek biathlete Paraskevi Ladopoulou lights the cauldron at the Handover Ceremony in Athens for the Beijing Flame for 2022

Picture JOH Archive

2022 (One cannot help but wonder how many Beijing 2022 torches the HOC obtained for this occasion, which then went unused and are sitting in the HOC's warehouse.)

The Handover Ceremony in Athens featured predominantly female participants and was again conducted before an audience of invited guests.

Once more there was no public admittance.

Double Olympic freestyle skiing silver medallist Li Nina represented the host nation before Paraskevi Ladopoulou lit the cauldron.

It was then entrusted to Beijing 2022 vice President Yu Zaiqing.

When the Flame finally reached the Birdsnest last February, the choice of Uyghur cross country skier Dinigeer Yilamujiang as one of the final Torch Bearers was seen by many as a political move.

"This is an athlete who is competing here, she has every right whatever her background and wherever she comes from to take part in the Opening Ceremony." IOC Presidential spokesperson Mark Adams said. The Olympic Flame burned in a torch placed in a snowflake receptacle made from the name boards of competing nations.

The Flame was eventually lit at an identical cauldron in the grounds of the Stadium opposite the medals plaza by a deliberately unnamed female volunteer who was said to represent all those who had volunteered.



Putting Olympic History right



At the 1972 Munich Olympics, Vince Matthews and Wayne Collett were given a life ban by the IOC for their behaviour at the 400m Victory Ceremony

Picture GettyImages Bettmann Archive

It has been a year when two Olympic decisions long regarded as unjust were finally rectified.

In December 2022, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board advised the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) that it “will accept any accreditation request. . . for Vincent Matthews for any future Olympic Games”

The change of heart came after representations to Lausanne from Caribbean Association of National Olympic Committees (CANOC) Secretary Brian Lewis during his time as President of the organisation.

Half a century ago, Matthews and the late Wayne Collett were given a life ban from the Olympics for a podium protest at Munich 1972 following the men’s 400 metres final in which Matthews won gold and Collett silver. The pair had stood in casual manner as the United States national anthem was played during the Victory Ceremony.

The IOC described their actions as an “insulting display.” and handed down the ban.

The new CANOC President Keith Joseph has saluted work by Lewis to rescind the life ban handed to American sprinters Vince Matthews and Wayne Collett after their protest on the podium at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

“It is with much pleasure that I extend sincere congratulations to our former President, now Secretary General, Brian Lewis, for his persistence in demanding that the International Olympic Committee’s (IOC) ban on Vince Matthews and Wayne Collett, be treated as a case of racial injustice in sport and should be lifted,” said Joseph.

It had been prompted by lobbying from the “Bright Path Strong” organisation, which is inspired by Thorpe’s indigenous name Wa-Tho-Huk (meaning Bright Path) as a member of the Sac and Fox community.



Jim Thorpe is once again listed as sole champion for the pentathlon and decathlon at the 1912 Stockholm Olympics

Picture © International Olympic Committee

World Athletics are also to amend their roll of honour to record him as champion in both events.

"We welcome the fact that, thanks to the great engagement of Bright Path Strong, a solution could be found," IOC President Thomas Bach said.

"This is a most exceptional and unique situation, which has been addressed by an extraordinary gesture of fair play from the National Olympic Committees concerned."

At the 1912 Stockholm Games, Thorpe had won pentathlon and decathlon gold and the Swedish King Sweden famously told him "You sir are the greatest athlete in the world!"

Thorpe was promptly stripped of the medals in 1913 after it was discovered that he had received payment for playing baseball in contravention of the regulations on amateur status in force at the time.

He remained a revered figure in American sport and was even the subject of a Hollywood film "Jim Thorpe, All American" directed by Michael Curtiz and starring Burt Lancaster.

Thorpe died in 1953, but it wasn't until 1982 that the IOC Executive Board reinstated him as "joint" champion after representations from the USOC.

Juan Antonio Samaranch made a special presentation to Thorpe's children after an IOC Executive Board meeting in Los Angeles.

At the time, the IOC remained unwilling to restore Thorpe as "sole" champion but did so last year after receiving permission from surviving family members the athletes upgraded to gold after Thorpe's disqualification.

"Bright Path Strong" had contacted the Swedish Olympic Committee and descendants of decathlete Hugo Wieslander.

They confirmed that before he died in 1976, he had considered Thorpe as the "sole legitimate champion."

Norwegian Sports authorities gave the same assurance regarding pentathlete Ferdinand Bie who died in 1961.

Both will now retain the medals they were awarded. The records will also continue to include American James Donahue and Canadian Frank Lukeman who were awarded medals when the pentathlon results were revised in 1913.

Similarly, the two Swedish decathletes Charles Lomberg and Gösta Holmér, who were also upgraded will remain in the record books.



Paris 2024 – Cherchez les Femmes

By Myles Garcia



The mascots for the 2024 Olympics and Paralympics have been based on the style of headgear worn by women at the time of the French Revolution

Picture Osterwalder Archive

Paris has revealed mascots for the 2024 Olympics and Paralympics, based on the headgear worn mostly by women during the time of the French revolution. The mascots revealed are both feminine, but so far no names have been revealed for the sister “mascottes,” “Just like the Olympic athletes, she knows the importance of measuring all the various parameters to achieve her goals. With her sharp mind, she is modest and prefers to hide her emotions. The Olympic Phryge will lead the movement of all those who take part in sport, and believe us, she will give her all to get France moving!” Paris 2024 said at their launch. Paris has also announced that the Olympic marathon will honour women by drawing inspiration from the famous women’s march of 5th and 6th October 1789, the year of the revolution. “This march was a popular, revolutionary event led by women that marked the history of contemporary France and saw several thousand women march on

Versailles to bring the king and his family back to Paris, where people faced starvation,” said Paris 2024 when the route was announced.

6–7,000 Parisian women marched through Paris, Sèvres and St. Cloud before reaching Versailles and forcing the King back to the Tuileries Palace. Starting at the Hotel de Ville and finishing at the Esplanade des Invalides, the course will take in some of the most beautiful sights and monuments of Paris.”

– For the first time in the Modern Games, the men’s marathon will be before the women’s race.

The women’s race on August 11, the Closing Day of the Games, is set to be the last gold medal awarded at the Games.



“Against All Odds,” the Caribbean Games are launched at last

By Philip Barker



The Conch and medals for the 2023 Caribbean Games

Picture JOH Archive

The inaugural Caribbean Games were finally held in 2022, over a decade after the launch had originally been scheduled.

“It was always with the spirit that animated us to finally deliver the Games of Against All Odds that I deliver our report of the preparation organisation and conduct of the first Caribbean Games,” Organising Committee President Alain Sorèze told officials as he presented his final account.

The delay in finally staging the Games had followed the historic pattern of many regional Games which had suffered similar delays from conception to execution.

The Caribbean Association of National Olympic Committees (CANOC) was founded 20 years ago and plans were laid for the inaugural Games to take place in July 2009. Trinidad and Tobago had been designated as host nation.

The event was to have embraced the 26 nations of the regions in five sports. The Games were conceived after discussions between governments of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM)

and CANOC. It eventually proved necessary to cancel them as a precaution against swine flu. They were not rescheduled.

In 2016, during a CANOC General Assembly held in Le Gosier, Guadeloupe officials announced their commitment to stage the Games in 2021. This was approved formally two years later when officials reconvened in Haiti.

There were still to be further obstacles as the scale of the COVID-19 pandemic became clear at the end of the decade.

In 2020 the decision was taken to postpone them 2022, Government ministries had originally designated the Games as a “major international sports event,” but funding which was to have helped with the athletics and netball arena were both withdrawn at short notice. Ultimately, the Games were staged with financial help from CANOC member nations.

“What happened in Guadeloupe was unique,” CANOC Treasurer Edith Cox insisted.

A budget was set at \$2.5 million.

“We were able to keep to the budget and learned to manage to the nearest euro even if the object was whatever it costs to deliver the first Games,” Sorèze reported. The Games finally opened in June 2022.

Instead of an Olympic style Torch, a different Relay was suggested using a traditional conch, often heard at carnival celebrations.

The idea was inspired by the Baton used for the Commonwealth Games.

It had been conceived “seeking a link with all the countries of the Caribbean, the culture and history of these countries and geographic area,” Sorèze explained.

“It is sometimes a sound of transmission, sometimes a sound of alert but also of gathering, joy and communion,

This choice perfectly met the criteria sought above as a symbol of freedom, communication and festivity,”

The headquarters of the Le Comité Régional Olympique & Sportif (CROS) was located close to Darse, the market area of Pointe à Pitre.



Caribbean Games Organising Committee President Alain Soreze delivers his final report on the Games

Picture JQH Archive

The conch itself was designed by Elodie Cairo and made by Darius Xavier, who produces similar instruments for use in the carnival.

The programme included athletics, aquatics, 3x3, cycling, futsal, judo and netball.

Even so organisers still encountered obstacles with weather alerts causing the re-arrangement of the 3x3 basketball.

In their final report, officials advised future organisers to establish an operational crisis unit "to manage any serious unforeseen events".

The delay in establishing the Games offered a curious parallel with other regional Games across the world.

There had been Far Eastern Games before the first world war but it was not until 1951 that a fully continental Asian Games was held for the first time.

It was a similar story in the Americas.

There had been multi-sport Games in Brazil in 1922 to celebrate the centenary of the nation.

In 1937 Games were held in Texas as part of a wider exhibition.

Future IOC President Avery Brundage was at the heart of planning for a full continental multi-sport event for Buenos Aires in 1942.

War put paid to that ambition and the first Pan-Am Games did not finally take flight until 1951.

Similarly, African Games had been planned in the 1920s but had been progressively delayed.

Ultimately the first "All African Games were not held until 1965.



International Olympic Academy to set up scholarship

**King Constantine * 2 June 1940 Psychiko (GRE)
†10 January 2023 Athens (GRE)**

By Philip Barker

The International Olympic Academy (IOA) is to establish a scholarship for a Greek athlete to attend the IOA masters programme in memory of Constantine, former King of the Hellenes who died in January.

The IOA Ephoria described King Constantine, who won Olympic sailing gold in the Dragon class at the 1960 Olympics as a “true friend” of the IOA.

“The Olympic and sports family of Greece is feeling much poorer after the loss of King Constantine II who passed away at the age of 82,”¹ said a tribute published by the IOA.

“From a young age he was distinguished for his athletic performance, resulting in winning the gold medal in sailing at the 1960 Rome Olympics.

“After the end of his sporting career he continued to serve sports in different capacities, while being an active member of the International Olympic Committee for 11 years and subsequently, he was attributed the title of the ‘Honorary Member’.

“He was a close friend of the International Olympic Academy and constantly supported its role and mission in the Olympic Movement worldwide. His presence at the IOA Sessions in Ancient Olympia was regular, participating at the works of the Session as well as the sport activities.

“His faith and adherence to the Ideals and Principles of Olympism was an attitude of life.”

He had often visited the premises of the IOA in Olympia and even did so as King of Greece when he spoke of his own experiences as an Olympic competitor in 1960.

He had won gold in the Dragon class sailing at the Olympic regatta held in the Bay of Naples.

“Let me give you an idea what sailing means. You get into a boat and you have the mast and the sails and that which you endeavour to do is to coordinate everything together. It is like a violin and if you do not coordinate it properly you will hear a wrong note, and with sailing, as with the violin, you will immediately see the result,”² he told the IOA participants.

“I found that winning the Gold medal for my country, the sensation that I felt was the greatest sensation that I have ever felt in my life, apart from the time that I got engaged.

“Here in Olympia, in ancient times the athletes from every part of the world met friendly competition, having first dedicated their efforts to God. I like to think that this spirit also enthuses the Modern Olympic Games.

There is too much narrow nationalism in the world today, too much fanaticism, too much pride that produces rancour and bitterness instead of friendship and charity. I cannot help feeling that we who still belong to the younger generation should revive the spirit of dedicating our efforts to the Higher Power rather than to our particular flag and to our own particular nation. If Sports become once more a dedicated offering to God, then the Olympic Spirit which is sacred to this place where we are now gathered will, once again unite the youth of the world inside one spirit rather than divide it into so many different nationalities. His parting message to delegates was

“I equally hope that when you have left Olympia and the Olympic Academy you will be able to take something away with you that will help you in your lives.”

¹ IOA Ephoria statement January 12, 2023.

² Proceedings of the IOA 1967 [HOC].



In 1960 Prince Constantine returned to Athens with his Olympic gold medal

Pictures JOH Archive

Beijing becomes part of the Olympic Museum Network



The Beijing Olympic Museum (BOJM) housed at the Birdsnest stadium has been elected to the Olympic Museums Network (OMN)

The museum includes artefacts from both the 2008 and 2022 Games held in the city.

"Established in 2009, the Beijing Olympic Museum never stopped collecting artefacts and creating educational programmes to reach local populations and share the Olympic values," said BJOM Director Hou Ming.

The OMN was set up in 2006 to help cooperation between Olympic museums across the world and now has 33 members including many institutions created in celebration of the Olympic Games.

"Based in a host city of both the Olympic Summer and Winter Games, they are uniquely placed to advocate the Olympic spirit and inherit the legacy of the Beijing

2008 and Beijing 2022 Games." said Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage (OFCH) Director and OMN Chairwoman Angelita Teo.

"The Beijing Olympic Museum is a great addition to an already dynamic network, and this further enhances our commitment to reach more people to spread the Olympic ideals."

Exhibits include examples of the bronze Fou drums which were used by 2008 performers at the start of the Olympic Opening Ceremony in 2008. Other items include torches and medals.

In addition the giant cauldron from the 2008 Games is to be found on the site outside the entrance.

Life size models of 2022 mascot Bing Dwen Dwen and Shuey Rhon Rhon have also proved popular with visitors.



The Beijing Olympic Museum

Pictures © Markus Osterwalder

Other museums in the network include those in the Olympic cities of Montreal, Seoul, Barcelona, Lillehammer and Pyeongchang. Olympic museums in Cologne and Doha are also part of the network.



FAREWELL TO THE OLDEST OLYMPIAN

**Felix Sienra (URU), * 21 January 1916
in Montevideo (URU), † 30 January 2023**

By Paul Tchir with additional material by JOH Editorial staff



The world's oldest Olympian, Uruguayan sailor Felix Fructuoso Sienra Castellanos has died at the age of 107, less than ten days after celebrating his birthday. 'He took off the captain's armband and got out of the boat,' his daughter Magda told ISOH member Gunnar Meindhardt in an interview for Welt as she revealed news of her father's passing.

Sienra was born in 1916 and as a teenager watched Uruguay win the 1930 FIFA World Cup in Montevideo. It is thought that he might have been the last surviving eye witness to that match.

"We grilled fish and drank a lot of wine. That night was the first and last time I got really drunk," he admitted later.

Sienra had competed at the 1948 London Olympics, although the sailing events were held on the coast at Torbay in the South West of England.

He took part in the Firefly class in a competition won by the legendary Danish sailor Paul Elvstrom.

Sienra's best performance came in the second race of the series when he placed second but finished the competition in sixth position.

Sienra was a lawyer by profession, but much better known in Uruguay as a longtime contributor to the development of sport in his country.

As an administrator, he was involved heavily with Yacht Club Uruguayo, serving as its Commodore of the Yacht Club Uruguayo from 1973 through 1975 and again from 2003 to 2006.

He also wrote 100 años bajo la cruz del sur to celebrate the club's 100th anniversary and worked with the Panathlon Club Montevideo. On the occasion of his 100th birthday in 2016, the Uruguayan Olympic Committee (COU) honoured him with its gold pin. On March 11, 2020, Sienra became the oldest living Olympian upon the death of Aarne Kainlauri. On 17 January 2023, Sienra became the oldest living Olympian of all-time, at almost 107-years-old, surpassing the previous oldest, American shooter Walter Walsh.



Felix Sienra Castellano was honoured by the Uruguayan Olympic Committee on the occasion of his 100th birthday in 2016. He was 107 when he died, the greatest age attained by any Olympian

Picture Uruguayan Olympic Committee

The Biographies of All IOC Members

Part XLI

By MARCIA NETO-WACKER



Born: January 7, 1964
Elected: July 26, 2012
Attendance:
Present: 16, Absent: 1

522. Lingwei Li (People's Republic of China)

Lingwei Li began her Badminton career at the age of 11, when she was invited to join the Zhejiang provincial team. In 1980, she won her first national competition and was selected for the Chinese national team. Between 1980 and 1989, she won 13 world titles and 48 national and international medals. In 1998, she was inducted into the Badminton Federation's Hall of Fame.

Lingwei was never able to compete in the Olympic Games during her time as an athlete, since badminton became an Olympic sport only in 1992, by which time she had already retired from competition. However, she was selected as one of the five athletes who carried the Olympic flag during the opening ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. She received an "IOC gold medal" from IOC President Jacques Rogge on the occasion of her election as a member of the International Olympic Committee in July 2012.

After retiring as an athlete, she completed her degree in Physical Education at Hangzhou University in 1989. She received her PhD degree from Beijing Sport University in 2008. After completing her degree, she turned her focus to coaching and was responsible for developing a new generation of sports talent. For her contribution as a coach, she was included in the top ten coaches in China in 1997 and 1998.

Lingwei received the Women and Sport Award from the IOC in 2008 for her constant advocacy of increasing women's participation in sport, one of the highlights of her list of awards and distinctions. For her dedication to women's rights causes, she was appointed Vice-chair of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Women's Commission in 2009 and remained there until 2017. In the years 2003–2008, she served as Deputy Director of the International Relations Department of the Organizing Committee for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. She was vice-president of the Chinese Badminton Association from 2002 to 2017 and a BWF Executive Board member.

Since 2017, Lingwei has been the vice president of the Chinese Olympic Committee. She has also been a member of the Olympic Solidarity programme, and the Audit Committee. In addition, she is a member of the Paris 2024 Coordination Commission, the Coordination of Youth Olympic Dakar 2026, and the Future Host Commission for the Games of the Olympiad.



523. Frank Fredericks (Published Joh28 – n. 3 – Bibliography n. 484)

Fredericks had originally been a member by virtue of his involvement with the Athletes's Commission but was elected as an individual member at the session.

524. Tsunekasu Takeda (Japan)

Tsunekasu Takeda was an equestrian who participated in the 1972 and 1976 Olympic Games in jumping category.

Following his competitive career, he became a coach of the Japanese equestrian team, leading the show jumping team in the Los Angeles 1984, Seoul 1988 and Barcelona 1992 Games.

In 1987, Takeda joined the Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC), following in the footsteps of his father Prince Tsuneyoshi Takeda, who had been president of the Japanese Olympic Committee from 1962–1969. Tsunekazu became president in 2001, and remained president until 2019. He was the longest president who had the longest term in the history of the JOC

He resigned after his name was implicated in an investigation into vote buying over bidding for the 2020 Games. He had been elected to the International Olympic Committee in 2012, but resigned in 2019 and for the same reason he stepped down from the Japanese committee. During his time at the IOC he had been part of the Vancouver 2010 Coordination for the XXI Olympic Winter Games from 2003 until the Games. From 2008 he was also on the commission for Sochi 2014 and then from 2012 for Pyeong-Chang (2012–18). He also served on the Evaluation commission for the 2022 Olympic Winter Games and led the Marketing Commission from 2014 until 2019.

Takeda served as president of the International Equestrian Federation between 1998 and 2002, and was later appointed an honorary vice-president. He was also Sports Director for the Organizing Committee of the Nagano Winter Games of 1998. From 2001 to 2003, he was Vice-President of the Olympic Council of Asia, and again starting from 2011.

Takeda studied law at Keio University, majoring in political science. Later, he became a lecturer at the same institution.



Born: November 1, 1947
Elected: July 26, 2012
Resigned: March 19, 2019
Attendance:
Present: 10, **Absent:** 0

525. Pierre-Olivier Beckers-Vieujaant (Belgium)

Pierre-Olivier, a Belgian businessman, was elected to the IOC in 2012 in London in his capacity as president of the Belgian Olympic and Interfederal Committee. In 2018, he became an individual member of the IOC, having joined the finance committee in 2013, ethics in 2014, and human resources in 2017. Since 2014, he has been the chair of the Audit Committee of the IOC.

In 2017, he was appointed chair of the Coordination Commission for the Olympic Games Paris 2024. He assumed the vice chair of the coordination commission for Los Angeles 2028 in the year 2019.

He approached the Belgian Olympic committee through the sponsor's committee, chaired by John Goossens, whom he succeeded after his death in 2002, becoming a Board Member. In 2004, he was elected President of the Belgian Olympic and Interfederal Committee after a close election, in which he received 58% of the votes. Pierre-Olivier held the presidency until 2021.

Pierre-Olivier was the CEO of the Delhaize group between 1999 and 2013, and he remained a member of the board of directors until 2015. After completing his master's degree in applied economics at the Université Catholique de Louvain in Belgium, he began his professional career as a store manager in a bakery chain. In 1983, he assumed the position of shop manager for the Delhaize group in the United States, where he stayed for three years. Over the course of this period, he obtained an MBA from Harvard Business School.

In January 2000, he was named Belgium's Manager of the year 1999 by the Belgian business magazine Trends/ Tendances. In 2009, he was awarded the award Belgium's CEO of the year 2008, having been nominated by the Belgian newspapers "Le Soir" and "De Standaard". He was elevated to the rank of Baron in July



Born: May 3, 1960
Elected: July 26, 2012
Attendance:
Present: 16, **Absent:** 1

2012, and in November 2012, he applied for a name change to Beckers-Vieujant for himself and his descendants. In 2013, he was appointed Commander of the Order of Leopold, the highest and oldest honorary order of Knighthood of Belgium.



Born:

December 28, 1966

Elected: July 26, 2012

Attendance:

Present: 17, Absent: 0

526. Aïsha Garad Ali (Djibouti)

Aïsha Garad Ali has gained international recognition for her commitment and ongoing commitment to the spread of Olympism. In 2022, she was awarded the Order of Merit by the Association of National Olympic Committees for her services to the development of sport and the dissemination of Olympic values. In 2018, she had already received the Order of Merit from the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa.

Besides her commitment to sport, she is also engaged in various humanitarian projects, being an active member of the humanitarian association. She is also the Head of Delegation for the management of the assistance to Yemeni refugees in Djibouti.

She began her sports career shortly after completing her studies in physical education in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, in 1987. When she returned to her home country, she began teaching gymnastics classes and, in 1994, she was appointed director of the School of Sport Studies. Additionally, she was a handball player and coach.

In the years 1987 to 1993, she was vice-president of the Djibouti Handball Federation. During the restructuring process of sport in Djibouti in 2004, she was Secretary General of the National Sports Commission for the re-founding of the Djibouti Olympic and Sport Movement, which eventually merged the National Sports Committee and the National Olympic Committee. In 2005, she assumed the presidency of the Djibouti National Olympic Committee, which in 2006 was renamed the Djibouti National Olympic and Sports Committee. Aïsha was re-elected in 2013, 2017 and 2021.

Since 2012, she has been a member of the International Olympic Committee, where she serves on the Culture and Olympic Heritage Commission, Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Commission, and Commission of the Olympic Programme. Her previous commissions include Women and Sport (2013–2015), Women in Sport (2015–2021), and Culture and Olympic Education (2014–2015). From 2013 until now, she has been a member of the Executive Committee of the World Taekwondo Federation.



Obituaries

AC = Andrey Chilikin, AG = Arild Gjerde, BM = Bill Mallon, CM = Connor Mah, DT = David Tarbotton, GM = George Masin, HE = Hilary Evans, IM = Ian Morrison, JH = Jeroen Heijmans, JS = Jase Stoke, OM = OlyMADMen, PT = Paul Tchir, RL = Rudolf Laky, RR = Ralf Regnitter, RS = Ralph Schlüter, SB = Sven Buren, SO = Stein Opdahl, TK = Taavi Kalju, WR = Wolf Reinhardt, RD = Ruud Paauw

Valentina Lutayeva (URS)

* 18 June 1956 in Zaporizhzhia, Zaporizhzhia (UKR), 12 January 2023 UKR.

Valentina Lutayeva was goalkeeper for the Soviet team which won Olympic gold at the 1980 Moscow Olympics. She played all five matches in the tournament. Between 1973 and 1984 she played for the SII club in Zaporizhzhia and from 1986, she played a further three years with HK Motor Zaporizhzhia. In 1989 she moved to Poland to play for Wrocław. The following year she played for Bratislava in Slovakia. She became a teacher and moved into coaching handball after her playing career. She died after a long illness. (WR)



Modeste M'Bami (CMR)

* 9 October 1982 in Yaoundé (CMR), † 7 January 2023 in Le Havre, Seine-Maritime (FRA).

Modeste M'Bami started his football career in his homeland with Dynamo FC Douala before he moved to Europe. In France, he played for CS Sedan (2000–03), Paris St. Germain (2003–06), Olympique Marseille (2006–09), and then had a spell in Spain with UD Almería (2009–11). He then moved to China (Dailan Aerbin, 2011–12), onto Saudi-Arabia (Al-Ittihad, 2012–13), Columbia (Millonarios FC, 2014) and back to France (AC Le Havre, 2014–16). He helped PSG win the French Cup in 2004 and 2006. His greatest moment with Cameroon came at the 2000 Sydney Olympics when he helped Cameroon win gold beating Spain 5–3 on penalties. He was also in the squad which reached the 2003 Confederation Cup Final, losing to France 1–0 after extra time. M'Bami died from a heart attack (WR).



Rose Mittermaier (FRG)

* 5 August 1950 in München (Munich), Bayern (GER), † 4 January 2023 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Bayern (GER).

Mittermaier enjoyed a glittering career crowned with Olympic gold in downhill and slalom at the 1976 Innsbruck Winter Olympics. In a long career in international skiing, she won 10 individual World Cup races between 1969 and 1976. In 1976, she was the World Champion in Alpine combined and finished top of the overall World Cup standings, although she did not lead any of the individual disciplines. She also earned three gold medals and one silver at World Championships. Mittermaier competed at the 1968 Grenoble 1972 Sapporo Winter Olympics where her best finish was sixth place downhill as her best result before winning her two gold medals. With giant slalom still to come, she had a chance to emulate Toni Sailer and Jean-Claude Killy by winning all three available Alpine ski events. In the giant slalom, however, she finished second, losing out by 12/100th's of a second to Canada's Kathy Kreiner. Mittermaier was then elected West Germany's Sportswoman of the Year.



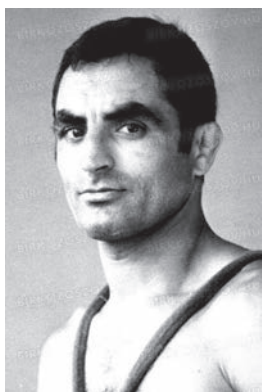
Mittermaier later married Christian Neureuther, another German skier. Her sisters Evi and Heidi were also Olympic Alpine skiers. Rosi and Christian Neureuther raised two children; their daughter Ameli became a fashion designer, while their son Felix was one of Germany's best slalom skiers. Felix married former cross-country skier and biathlete Miriam Gössner. Rosi and Christian frequently did colour commentary on Alpine skiing events for German TV. Rosi was awarded the Olympic Order in silver in 1999, and she was inducted into the German Sports Hall of Fame in 2006 (WR).



Sergey Bautin (EUN)

* 11 March 1967 in Rahachow (BLR), † 2 January 2023.

Bautin started his ice hockey career with Dynamo Moskva in 1990, with whom he won the Soviet title in 1991 and CIS title in 1992. In 1992 Bautin joined Winnipeg Jets of the NHL, playing there until 1994. He then moved to Detroit Red Wings and from 1995–96 he played for the San Jose Sharks. Bautin then returned to Europe to play in Sweden with Luleå HF for two years. He played a further two seasons with Ak Bars Kazan, before playing a further season with Nürnberg Ice Tigers (Germany), then New Oji Seishi Tomakomai (Japan), a season at Metallurg Magnitogorsk and Moskva Krylya Sovetov. Bautin never played for the Soviet team, but won gold with the Unified Team at the 1992 Winter Olympics and was a member of Russian World Championships teams in 1992, 1997 and 1999 (TK).



János Varga (HUN)

* 21 October 1939 in Abony (HUN), † 29 December 2022 in Budapest (HUN).

János Varga started wrestling in 1955 with Abonyi Tsz. By 1958, he was already a four-time youth champion and had won a silver medal among the seniors. In 1959, he was serving in the military when he was selected for the national team. He became a member Budapesti Honvéd. Initially, Varga competed in both disciplines, winning nine Hungarian championships in Greco-Roman and five in freestyle, but he achieved his most significant results as a bantamweight in Greco-Roman, as a bantamweight. In 1963 He won his first world title the 1963 World Championships in Helsinki, despite a broken rib for the last few minutes of the final. He won a further world championship gold in 1970.

He had won silver in 1961 and 1967 and also took bronze in 1962 and 1971.

In the European championships he won two gold medals (1967, 1970) and a silver medal 1968.

Varga was unable to prepare properly for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and was eliminated in the fourth round, but he won gold in Mexico At the age of 33, he also competed at the 1972 Munich Games where he finished fourth, and retirement came in 1973. Afterwards Varga coached Budapesti Honvéd until 1990, and the Hungarian junior national team between 1978 and 1993. Among his students József Faragó and Árpád Sípos became European champions. From 1981, he was also an international judge. He was a member of the Hungarian Olympic Committee and the MOB's tradition preservation committee. In 1985, Varga was accorded the title of Master Trainer. In 2016 he was elected to the Wrestling Hall of Fame, and he received the title of 'Honorable Citizen' from his hometown. His daughter, [Gabriella Varga]/athlete/105993), was a double European champion fencer who finished fourth in team foil at the 2008 Olympics (RL).

Luann Ryon (USA)

* 13 January 1953 in Long Beach, California (USA), † 27 December 2022 in Riverside, California (USA).

Ryon was a surprising gold medallist at the 1976 Montreal Olympics in women's archery. At the time she was only 23-years-old, young for the sport at that time, and had only entered one national Championship at the time she won the 1976 Olympic Trials. Ryon entered Riverside Community College in autumn 1971, and joined an archery class because all of the tennis classes were full.

In 1974 she won the 1974 intercollegiate title. Ryon proved her Olympic gold was not a fluke by winning the 1977 World Championships and leading the United States to the team title. They did not win it again until 2015.

Ryon also competed in the 1983 Pan American Games in Caracas, winning gold medals in the team event and individual 30 metres, and silver in the individual 50 metres. In the individual FITA Double Round, she finished third but did not receive bronze because Americans had won gold and silver and the regulations prevented individual competitors from the same nation winning all three medals. Ryon was inducted into the Riverside (California) Hall of Fame in 2010 (BM).



Anton Tkáč (TCH)

* 30 March 1951 in Lozorno (SVK), † 22 December 2022 in Bratislava (SVK).

Anton Tkáč was a Slovak-born track cyclist who represented Czechoslovakia at the 1972 Munich, 1976 Montréal and 1980 Moscow Olympics. He won sprint gold in 1976 and was fourth four years later. He started his sporting career in athletics but switched to cycling when he was 17. In 1978, he also won the World Championships. Tkáč later became an administrator in the Slovak Cycling Federation. (WR).



Renée Colliard (SUI)

* 24 December 1933 in Genève (Geneva) (SUI), † 15 December 2022.

She became a member of the Swiss alpine skiing team only shortly before the 1956 Winter Games in Cortina d'Ampezzo and was a surprise winner of the women's slalom by a margin of over three seconds. Colliard was a pharmacy student at the University of Geneva, and these Games represented her only major success on the international scene, although she was also Swiss national champion in the slalom that same year. She graduated in 1960 and eventually moved to Montana in the canton of Valais, where she and her husband opened up a ski resort and pharmacy (OM).



Ercolo Baldini (ITA)

* 26 January 1933 in Forlì, Forlì-Cesena (ITA), † 1 December 2022 in Forlì, Forlì-Cesena (ITA).

In 1956, Ercolo Baldini had one of the greatest years in amateur cycling history. In addition to winning the Olympic gold medal, he won the world amateur individual pursuit title, and broke the world hour record at the Vigorelli Velodrome in Milano. He turned professional later in 1956 and Italian cycling fans expected him to become the next campionissimo. However, although he won the world professional road race title and the Giro d'Italia in 1958, he was never quite as successful as a professional rider. In 1957 he broke his own world hour record. His career highlights were concentrated across three seasons from 1956 to 1959, during which time he rode as a professional alongside Fausto Coppi. A rouleur, nicknamed "Electric train of Forlì", he was always beset by weight problems, and was at his best in time trials. At the 1958 Giro he took the maglia rosa on the second stage, dominated the time trial at Viareggio, and even won a mountain finish in Verona Bosco Chiesanuova. Later that year, at the Worlds, he dropped the breakaway group, including Coppi, Louison Bobet, and Gastone Nencini,



on the penultimate lap and won by over two minutes ahead of Bobet. Baldini continued to race until 1964, but was never able to reach those heights again, partially as a result of weight problems, but also due to complications after an appendectomy. In 2016 he was inducted into the Giro d'Italia Hall of Fame alongside Eddy Merckx, Felice Gimondi, Stephen Roche, and Francesco Moser. In honor of his sporting achievements, Baldini was awarded a Gold Medal by the Italian Olympic Committee (OM).



Alzhan Zharmukhamedov (URS)

* 2 October 1944 in Tavaksai (UZB), † 3 December 2022.

Often considered the first ethnic Kazakh to win an Olympic gold medal, Alzhan Zharmukhamedov was a basketball player who played for the Soviets in their controversial victory at Munich 1972. His career lasted from 1970 to 80, all spent with CSKA Moskva. His team won the USSR League title every year in that decade except 1975. Zharmukhamedov was also a EuroLeague Champion in 1971 and won the USSR Cup in 1972 and 1973. At the World Cup (then known as World Championships) he won a silver in 1978 and a bronze in 1970. Zharmukhamedov was captain of the Soviet team captain near the end of his career and later became a coach, although he retired at the relatively young age of 45. He was awarded the Soviet Order of the Badge of Honour in 1972 and the Russian Order of Honour in 2006 (TK).



Sir Murray Halberg (NZL)

* 7 July 1933 in Eketahuna (NZL), † 30 November 2022 in Auckland (NZL).

His left shoulder shattered by a tackle while playing rugby in 1950, Murray Halberg turned to running as his main sporting pursuit with Arthur Lydiard as his coach. His first major games were the British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Vancouver in 1954 where he was fifth in the mile.

At the 1956 Melbourne Olympics Games he finished 11th in the 1500 m.

His breakthrough came at the British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Cardiff in 1958, when he won gold over three miles after which he became the first New Zealander to run a mile in under four minutes. In Cardiff he also finished fifth in the mile. In 1960, he repeated the tactics used in Cardiff to win the Olympic 5000 metres in Rome within an hour of another Lydiard pupil, Peter Snell, winning the 800 metres. In 1961 he broke three world records (two miles, 4×1 mile relay, and three miles) in the space of 19 days. Halberg successfully defended his three-mile title at the Empire and Commonwealth Games in Perth in 1962.

He built on his sporting success to set up the Murray Halberg Trust for Crippled Children (now the Halberg Trust) and established as its main fundraising function the New Zealand Sportsman of the Year awards (which are now known as the Halberg Awards). Halberg was knighted in 1998 and in 2008 he was made a member of the Order of New Zealand (BM) an honour accorded to very few.



Jüri Tarmak (URS)

* 21 July 1946 in Tallinn (EST), † 22 June 2022 in Tallinn (EST).

Jüri Tarmak was born to a sporting family. His father Aadu Tarmak had been Soviet discus Champion in 1943–44 and Estonian SSR shot put and discus titles in 1945–46. Tarmak junior took up athletics in 1963 and was a member the Soviet national team from 1970 to 1974. The greatest moment of his career came in winning high jump gold at the 1972 Olympics as the last Olympic champion to use the straddle technique. Besides his Olympic gold, Tarmak won silver at the 1971 European Indoor Championships and a bronze medal at the 1972 European Indoor Championships. His his only medal at the Soviet Championships was a bronze in 1970. Tarmak was also the Estonian SSR champion in 1965–67. He finished his sports career in 1974. A

year he later graduated from Leningrad State University with an economics degree, later receiving a candidate of economics degree in 1985 and from 1985–90 worked as a lecturer at his alma mater. He moved back to Estonia after the fall of the Soviet Union and in 1990 established his own investment company, Broker Baltic AS, later working as a vice-president and economy consultant with the Tallinn Stock Exchange. From 2001–12 Tarmak was chairman of the Kompas Tallinn sports club and from 2006 to 2009 was a board member of the association Sport Kõigile (TK).

Aleksandr Gorshkov (URS)

* 8 October 1946 in Moskva (Moscow), Moskva (RUS), † 17 November 2022 in Moskva (Moscow), Moskva (RUS).

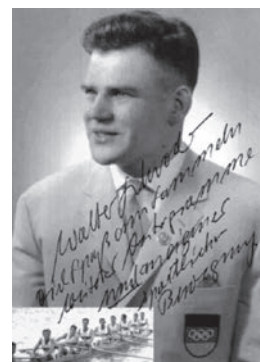
Lyudmila Pakhomova and Aleksandr Gorshkov were the leading ice dancing pair at the start of 1970s and were the first Olympic ice dance champions. They began skating competitively in 1967 and were married in 1970. They won their first international medals in 1969, a silver at the World Championships and a bronze at the Europeans. They were World champions from 1970 to 1974 and won their sixth world title in 1976. They also won six European titles (1970, 1971, 1973–76) and also won silver in 1972. In addition they won six Soviet titles from 1969 to 1971 and then again from 1973 to 1975. When ice dancing was admitted to the Olympic programme for the 1976 Olympics, they won the first Olympic gold medal. After his sporting career Gorshkov worked as a figure skating coach. Since 1984 he had also been a member of the International Skating Union's ice dance technical committee, serving as the chairman of that committee since 1998. He was also a member of the Russian Olympic Committee since 1992, serving as the head of their public communications department. Gorshkov was inducted into the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame in 1988, along with Pakhomova, who was inducted posthumously after she died from cancer in 1986 (TK).



Walter Schröder (GER)

* 29 December 1932 in Campow, Utecht, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (GER), † 10 November 2022.

Walter Schröder was a member of the German eight which won the 1959 European title by an overwhelming margin of some 50 metres which earned them selection as West German team of the year. The 1960 crew was known as the "Ratzeburg" crew, even though their members came from both Ratzeburg and Ditmarsia Kiel clubs, and their prowess was attributed partially to their new oar design. They were the first non American crew to win Olympic gold in the eights since 1900 and were subsequently elected team of Year once again. They were also awarded the Silver Bay Leaf in both 1959 and 1960, the highest German sports award. Schröder later became a rowing teacher and coach. He also wrote several textbooks about rowing, partly together with his teammate Hans Lenk. Schröder later became professor at the University of Hamburg and taught sport specialising in rowing (WR).



Tomasz Wójtowicz (POL)

* 22 September 1953 in Lublin, Lubelskie (POL), † 24 October 2022.

Tomasz Wójtowicz was one of the greatest volleyball players from Poland and part of the golden era of Polish volleyball during the mid-1970s. Wójtowicz played for the Polish junior team when he was 18, winning the European Junior silver in 1972 and the bronze at the 1973 European Championships. Wójtowicz's club career began in 1968 with AZS Lublin. With Legia Warsaw Wójtowicz, he won Polish championship medals in 1982 and 1983. Wójtowicz played 325 matches for the Polish team from 1973 to 1984. He was a member of the side which won the World Championship in 1974 and four silver medals at the European Championships from 1975 to 1983. Wójtowicz also



played in three World Cups, finishing in second place in 1973. In 1976 Wójtowicz was a member of the Polish team that won the gold at the 1976 Montréal Olympics, beating the Soviet Union in the final. Four years later at the Moscow Olympics, Poland finished only fourth. After the Games, Wójtowicz played volleyball in Italy for eight years before returning to Poland. In 2001 the International Volleyball Federation named him as one of the top eight volleyball players in the world. The following year he became the first Polish player to be inducted into the Volleyball Hall of Fame in the United States (OM).



Ole Martin Ellefsæter (NOR)

* 15 February 1939 in Furnes, Ringsaker (NOR), † 18 October 2022 in Brumunddal, Ringsaker (NOR).

Ole Ellefsæter grew up in Ringsaker, a municipality near the town of Hamar. In 1958, at the age of 19 he was Norwegian junior champion in 10 km cross country and later Norwegian senior champion over 15 km in 1964 and 50 km in 1965 and 1967. His international breakthrough as a cross country skier came at the 1964 Olympic Winter Games, when he finished 8th in the 50 km race. In the 1966 World Championships in Oslo he was a member of the gold medal winning relay team, won silver medal in 15 km and was fourth in the 50 km. In 1967 he enjoyed a great season as a 50 km skier, winning both the Norwegian Championships and the big international competitions in Holmenkollen and Lahti. His two gold medals at the 1968 Olympics were therefore unsurprising. In 1971 he became the first Norwegian skier to win the famous Vasaloppet in Sweden. He had been persuaded to compete by his Swedish friend Bjarne Andersson, who was second in the race. He finished his Olympic career by placing 10th in 50 km at the 1972 Winter Olympics, aged 33. Ellefsæter was also an excellent athlete on the track, winning six successive national 3000 m steeplechase titles from 1960 to 1965. In 1962, he almost created a sensation in a match against Yugoslavia at Bislett Stadium in Oslo, winning the 3000 m steeplechase in 8:43. 8, only 1. 4 seconds behind Olympic bronze medalist Ernst Larsen's Norwegian record and only 13 seconds slower than the world record. He was selected for the 1962 European Athletic Championships, but was did not make the final. Ole Ellefsæter also had success as a singer. His 1966 single "Huldreslått" became a national hit and sold over 25, 000 copies. In the summer of 1968 he had another hit with "Alle kluter til". The lyrics were about the recent Norwegian Olympic success in Grenoble. He published two LP-records, "Viser og gamle takter" (1967) and "I godt lag" (1969), lyrics mostly written by his neighbour, the author Guttorm P. Haugen (1911-). Ellefsæter worked several years as a lumberjack, and later studied to be a forestry technician. He was given the nickname "Uteligger" (Homeless) by his skiing teammates as a result of a long training session in the forests around his home. He was taken by surprise by the darkness, and was forced to stay the night in the forest with no shelter. For his accomplishments in cross-country skiing and athletics, Ellefsæter received the Egebergs Ærespris in 1965. In 1967 he was awarded The Holmenkollen Medal. A statue of him was erected in Brumunddal, the centre of his home municipality of Ringsaker (SO).



Yuri Klimov (URS)

* 22 July 1940 in Ukhta, Respublika Komi (RUS), † 17 October 2022.

Soviet handball player and coach Yuri Klimov was a Honored Master of Sports of the USSR (1973) and 1976 Olympic gold medallist at Montréal. He was awarded the title Cavalier of the Order of the Red Banner of Labour in 1976. Klimov played 173 matches for the USSR National Team and won silver at the 1978 World Championships. Domestically, he won the Soviet Union championships seven times. From 1979, he was the coach of the youth team of the USSR, and from 1980–82 the coach of the national team of the Soviet Union. In 2006, he guided the Iranian team to bronze at the Asian Games. Later he coached the Iranian club Zob Akhan. (WR).

Luke Jackson (USA)

* 31 October 1941 in San Marcos, Texas (USA), † 12 October 2022 in Houston, Texas (USA).

At 6–9 (2.05) and 240 lbs. (109 kg.), Luke Jackson was one of the strongest forwards to ever play basketball. He won a gold medal at the 1963 Pan American Games and played collegiate basketball at little known Pan American University.

In 1964 he was part of the United States team which maintained its perfect record by winning Olympic gold.

From there, he was the first round draft pick of the Philadelphia 76ers in 1964. He spent eight years there. In his first he made the NBA All-Rookie team and later played in two NBA All-Star games. Jackson was never mentioned as the greatest forward in the league, but he had a job to do and did it to perfection. He was an outstanding defensive player and strong rebounder who was never asked to score a lot of points. The culmination of his role as a team player came in 1966–67 when the Philadelphia team on which he played won 68 games and lost only 13. Jackson was an indispensable cog in this machine which some people think was the greatest NBA team seen at the time. After his playing career ended, Jackson spent 25 years as parks and recreation director in Beaumont, Texas before retiring (BM).



Gerben Karstens (NED)

* 14 January 1942 in Voorburg (NED), † 8 October 2022 in Dongen (NED).

As an amateur, Karstens participated in both speed skating and cycling. His best performance on the ice at the 1963 Dutch Allround Championships when he finished eighth. He soon realised that if he wanted to excel, he would have to choose. He preferred cycling, a decision which did not please his father who was a notary.

As an amateur he won more than fifty races, before racing to gold in the 100 km team time trial at with Bart Zoet, Jan Pieterse and Evert Dolman) at the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

It was a performance which helped secure Karstens a spot in the professional circuit the following year.

As a sprinter, he immediately proved his capabilities, winning the "Sprinters' Classic" Paris-Tours in his first year, placing second in the Giro di Lombardia and winning the 21st stage of the Tour de France.

He was to compete on 11 occasions and win six stages with the highlight a win on the Champs Elysees in 197.

He went on to win stages in all Grand Tours, 1 in the Giro d'Italia, 6 more in the Tour and no fewer than 14 in the Vuelta a España. In both 1967 and 1973, Karstens won four stages in the Vuelta. He crossed the line first in two more classics, the 1969 Giro di Lombardia and 1974 Paris-Tours, but is not listed as the winner for either race. He failed a doping test in Lombardia, and supposedly "missed" the doping test in Tours. He also missed doping control after his stage win in the 1974 Tour, but was then reinstated, earning him the first of two days in the Yellow Jersey. In the peloton, where he raced until 1980, Karstens was known for his humour. On one occasion, he escaped from the pack, only to hide in the bushes and rejoin the pack from the back. He then enjoyed the peloton "chasing" him. Other such performances included grabbing a spectator's bikini top and "blocking" the road with his bike.

When his career in the saddle ended, he showed no inclination to be a coach or team leader in the cycling world, and instead opted to sail around the world. (JH/RP)





Bill Nieder (USA)

* 10 August 1933 in Hempstead, New York (USA), † 7 October 2022 in Angels Camp, California (USA).

While at Kansas, Bill Nieder won the 1955 NCAA title shot put title and the following season he became the second man in history to throw beyond 60 feet. The first man across that barrier was Parry O'Brien, and it was O'Brien who beat Nieder at the 1956 Olympics. Nieder won his only AAU title in 1956 and, although often troubled by a knee injury, he was at his best in 1960 when he improved the world record three times, leaving it at 65–10 (20.06) – history's first 20-metre put, and took the Olympic gold medal, having turned the tables on silver medalist O'Brien. Nieder was fortunate to make the 1960 Olympic team, he qualified only fourth, but was called up to when alternate Dave Davis dropped out with an injury. Soon after the Rome Olympics, Bill Nieder began a career in a pro boxing career. It lasted one round, he was knocked out quickly in his only fight. Nieder later became an executive with the Marathon Engineering Corporation and also worked with 3M, helping them develop synthetic athletic fields (BM).



Yuri Zaytsev (URS)

* 17 January 1951 in Pobedino, Sakhalin (RUS), † 30 September 2022 in Dnipro, Dnipropetrovsk (UKR).

Although born in the distant Russian Far East island of Sakhalin, Yuri Zaytsev grew up in Kazakhstan, where his family moved when he was eight. Zaytsev took up weightlifting in 1968 and was selected for the Soviet national team in 1974.

He won bronze at the 1974 World Championships but his greatest year came in 1976 when he won the Soviet championship for the only time and the world title.

In Montreal he also became Olympic champion. He won a further world title in 1978.

He also won European gold in 1979 after taking silver in both 1976 and 1977.

He had also won another world championship silver.

Zaytsev also won the Soviet Cup in 1974, 1976, 1977 and 1979. During his career he set three heavyweight world records, two in the clean & jerk, and one in the total.

He was not selected for the Olympic team and retired from competitive lifting soon after.

He started to work as a weightlifting coach in Ukraine, where he had moved after the 1976 Olympics, first in Odesa and later in Dnipropetrovsk. After the fall of the Soviet Union Zaytsev worked as a pig farmer and taxi driver (TK).



Rapael Chimishk'iani (URS)

* 23 March 1929 in Tbilisi (GEO), † 25 September 2022.

Chimishk'iani took up weightlifting in 1946 and won his first gold medal in his debut Soviet championship at bantamweight. In 1950, Chimishk'iani won silver at the World Championships and gold at the European Championships and then switched to featherweight, winning a silver at the Soviet championships. In all, Chimishk'iani won four Soviet titles at featherweight (1951, 1954–55, 1960), five silvers (1950, 1952–53, 1957–58) and bronze in 1956 and 1962). Chimishk'iani also won Olympic gold in 1952, World titles in 1954 and 1955 and silver in 1953, European titles in 1952 and 1954–1957 and silver in 1953. Chimishk'iani also set 10 world records – three in the snatch, two in the clean and jerk, and five in the total. After finishing his sporting career, Chimishk'iani was a Category One international weightlifting referee and was active in the Georgian Weightlifting Federation (TK).

Boris Lagutin (URS)

* 24 June 1938 in Moskva (Moscow), Moskva (RUS), † 4 September 2022 in Moskva (Moscow), Moskva (RUS).

Boris Lagutin is probably the most celebrated Soviet boxer and considered the best light-middleweight amateur boxer in the world at the start of the 1960s. In a career which began in 1955 and lasted until 1968, won 287 bouts out of 298. He won Olympic silver in 1960 and successive golds in 1964 and 1968. In addition he won two European titles (1961, 1963) and six Soviet titles (1959, 1961–1964, 1968).

From 1964 to 1971 he coached the youngsters at Spartak Moscow.

In 1971 he graduated from Moscow State University with a biology degree and was Chairman of the Soviet Boxing Federation from 1976 to 1981. He served as Spartak vice-president from 1982 to 1987. In the 1970s and 1980s Lagutin also led Komsomol the sports section of the Soviet Communist Party's youth wing Komsomol and from 1987–91 was the chairman of the physical culture and sports department of the Soviet Trade Union. In 1991 Lagutin became President of the foundation for Improvement and Sports, an organization he had founded to help to improve children's health, fitness and athletic performances. In 1996, Lagutin began work as an advisor to the Russian president in sports matters. He had been invested with the Olympic Order in silver in 1988 (TK).



Gheorghe Berceanu (ROU)

* 28 December 1949 in Cârna (ROU), † 30 August 2022 in Slatina (ROU).

Berceanu was a wrestler who Greco-Roman light flyweight gold at the 1972 Munich Olympics and silver in 1976. He had previously been World Champion in 1969 and 1970 and won a further silver medal in 1975. He won European titles in 1970, 1972, and 1973, and also gold at the 1973 Summer Universiade in Moscow. Berceanu later became a wrestling coach at Steaua București. He died from a heart attack In August 2022 (JS).



Phil Coles (AUS)

* 20 July 1931 in Sydney, New South Wales (AUS), † 28 January 2023 in Sydney, New South Wales (AUS).

Phil Coles was a flatwater canoeist who competed at three Olympic Games, from 1960–68. He won 25 national canoe championships and was a national surf lifesaving champion five times. Coles captained the first Australian surf lifeguard team to compete in California in 1965. In sports administration Coles was a member of the Executive Board of the Australian Olympic Committee since 1973, served as secretary-general from 1985–93 and then Director of International Relations from 1993–99. He was vice president and director of the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) from 1993–99. He was also a founding member of the Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC). Coles was a board member of the Australian Sports Drug Agency from 1996–98, and was a member of the Australian Sports Commission from 1984–87 and 1989–91. Coles has made a member of the IOC in 1982 and has been on numerous Commissions, including: Radio and Television; Joint Mass Media; Olympic Solidarity; Study and Evaluation for the Preparation of the Winter Olympic Games; Sport for All; New Sources of Financing; Marketing; Working Group on the Olympic Programme; and the Olympic Programme Commission. He served on the IOC until he turned 80 and then was made an Honorary Member on 1 January 2012. Coles was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1983 "In recognition of service to sport," and was inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 1993 (OM).



Book Reviews



Granite and Gold World Curling Federation

Mike Haggerty

ISBN 978 13999 324 0

Pages 140 in English (no price given)

Reviewed by Philip Barker

This superb volume charts a century since the first Curling's Olympic gold medal in 1924 through to the exciting conclusion to competitions at the Beijing 2022 Games.

"This book simply reminds us that ordinary curlers can produce extraordinary performances in the heat of elite sport," wrote Kate Caithness, who stood down as World Curling Federation (WCF) President last year in her foreword.

There is also an assessment of the sport by International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach, "The radiates a kind of calmness because although you have real competition, it's not aggressive. It is intense but friendly reflecting the value of fair play,"

The book is the work of senior Curling journalist Mike Haggerty. It has been edited by WCF Media manager Christopher Hamilton.

This is a valuable and detailed account of each Olympic competition with a valuable list of competitors and potted competition standings.

Haggerty's compatriot Doug Gillon, another highly respected writer has written a fascinating chapter on Curling at the 1924 Chamonix Games.

There are also contributions from Switzerland's Patrick Hurliman, men's gold medallist in 1998, Rhona Howie (Martin) British gold medal winning skip in 2002, Anette Norberg, Sweden's double champion in 2006 and 2010. Canada's triple Paralympic gold medallist Sonja Gaudet also feature, along with her compatriot John Morris, who with Kaitlyn Lawes won the inaugural mixed pairs competition in 2018,

To make the record truly complete details are also given of competition at the Paralympic Games and Youth Olympics.

There is also a contribution from Sir Philip Craven, IPC President when the sport was included at the Paralympics for the first time.

Current IPC President Andrew Parsons also offers a note of confidence. "I cannot imagine the Paralympics without Para curling and I don't want to."

Visually the book is also a delight.

Superb use of illustrations has been made by WCF Photo manager Richard Gray and designer Douglas Colquhoun. There are superb pictures from Chamonix 1924 which will be of interest to historians of wider Olympic history. There is even a fascinating picture showing International Olympic Committee Juan Antonio Samaranch launching a stone.

It was during his presidency that the sport made its return to the Olympic programme.

From the many thousands of images that are taken at any Olympics or Paralympics, those chosen highlight the sport in a very original way.

In all a superb example of how to tell the history of a sport.



'The Power of Belief' – The Beth Schriever Story

Sarah Juggins

Pitch Publishing Ltd; Hardcover

£25, 288 pages ISBN-10: 1801503737

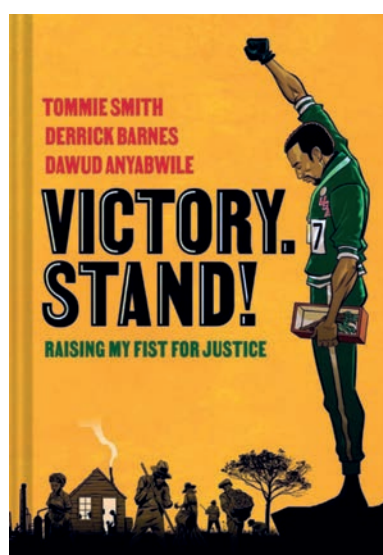
Reviewed by Philip Barker

In its way, the very fact that this has even found itself in print is one of the more intangible legacies of London 2012 and even 25 years ago, the biography of a female BMX rider might probably never have seen

the light of day. For one thing, BMX was very much the new kid on the Olympic block, introduced only at Beijing 2008, for another, books about sports women were relatively unknown.

'The Power of Belief' is told in the first person by Beth with contributions by mum Kate, dad Paul, and boyfriend Brynley Savage, all skilfully collated by Sarah Juggins, a writer and broadcaster better known for her superb books on Olympic and World Cup hockey. There are also chapters by Tokyo silver medallist Kye Whyte and long time BMX friend and World bronze medallist Blaine Ridge-Davis, coach Marcus Bloomfield and strength conditioning coach Dan McPartlan. There is also a section called "Learning to Talk it through," and a substantial chapter from the man who by Schriever's own admission, "changed my life and perspective," British Cycling psychologist Richard Hampson.

In many respects, this book might also have been called everything you wanted to know about BMX.



Victory. Stand! Raising my Fist for Justice

Tommie Smith, Derrick Barnes, Dawud Anyabwile

Norton Young Readers 27 Sept. 2022

Language: English

@p@p 208 pages

ISBN 978-1-324-05215-9

Reviewed by Nicholas Wolaver

At a race in mid October 1968, three athletes became global icons.

That race was the Olympic men's 200m final in Mexico City's Estadio Olímpico Univeritario.

In the decades since, the accomplishments American sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos and Australia's Australia's Peter Norman have been revisited countless times.

Their actions during the Victory Ceremony while "The Star-Spangled Banner" was played has also been re-examined countless times in film, broadcast specials, print media and more recently online.

Now for the first time, Smith's life and gold medal winning exploits have been depicted in a graphic novel.

"Victory. Stand! Raising My Fist for Justice" has been co-created with award-winning comic artist Dawud Anyabwile and best-selling author Derrick Barnes.

Released in September, the book soon became a contender for the 2022 National Book Award for young people's literature, and by the end of the year the Washington Post had named it book of the year.

Just as Smith's surge on the track set a 200m world record, "Victory. Stand!" and its compelling messages have also captured gold.

The story opens at the starting blocks of the Olympic track but quickly pivots to Smith's hardscrabble childhood with 11 siblings in rural Texas.

Readers learn Smith's memories of stern and faithful parents, who eventually moved the family to California as part of the Great Migration. Through the first two chapters (about 100 pages) the narrative moves back and forth from youthful observations to Olympic track action, relating childhood milestones as a context for the Mexico City play-by-play.

Barnes is a seasoned author who has written more than ten books aimed at the youth including "The King of Kindergarten" and "Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut."

He described talking to Smith at the Olympians's suburban Atlanta home.

"It was like an uncle telling a great story" Barnes said, as he became inspired to find an illustrator to help relate the story in graphic form.

Anyabwile emerged as a natural first choice to undertake the task.

He had worked extensively with the Cartoon Network and other Turner Studios projects.

He also had also worked on another Olympian-centric graphic novel in 2020, "Becoming Muhammad Ali."

For some, a "parental guidance" note may be apt as several pages portray adult decisions and actions as this book, although aimed at young readers does not sugarcoat the many struggles for Blacks before, during and since the Civil Rights Movement.

Anyabwile identified to Chapter Two's double truck opener portraying horrors of racism from hooded Ku Klux Klan members with torches igniting a cross to a lynched father, as the most challenging episode to illustrate.

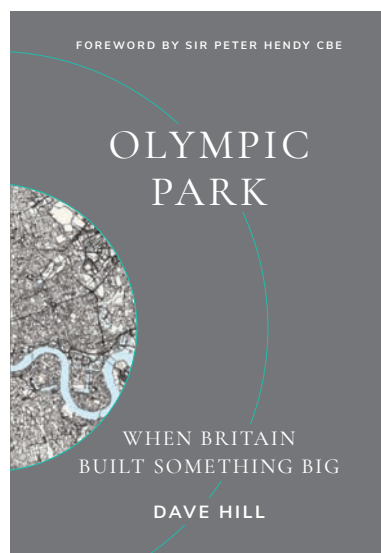
But part of the point, Barnes said, is to inspire family conversations. And "Victory. Stand!" encourages thoughtful discussion of history, racism, faith, focus

and when, where and how to take a meaningful stand for what's right.

Anyabwile's beautiful images also include a full-page celebration of Enriqueta Basilio, the Mexican hurdler chosen as the first woman to ignite the Olympic cauldron. Other Olympians including Bob Beamon and LeBron James also enjoy Anyabwile's artistry, which he explained is drawn electronically.

Another compelling section of "Victory. Stand!" is Chapter Three's "Metamorphosis" of Smith from small town athlete to Olympic and world record contender while studying at San Jose State University. The book also adds context to the Olympic Project for Human Rights of which Smith was a key participant, drawing attention to the International Olympic Committee's hardline stance against protests.

This comes full circle with contemporary athlete protests inspired by Smith's stand. Readers may savour the variety of comic techniques from intricately drawn "ink" splatters to fine lines and detailed Ben Day dots.



OLYMPIC PARK (When Britain Built Something Big)

Dave Hill

On London Books

388 pages in English.

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Reviewed by Tony Sainsbury

This pocket sized account of the background and development of the London 2012 Olympic Park, now known as the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, must rank among one of the most comprehensive accounts

of an Olympic & Paralympic Games regeneration project ever.

It is up there with other Games accounts such as *Made in America* by Peter Ueberroth (LA 1984), *The Time of Our Lives* by Harry Gordon (Sydney 2000) and the Barcelona '92 time-lapse video of the regeneration of the Olympic Village precinct.

In his introduction, the author states that he only agreed to write the book when asked by the London Legacy Development Corporation provided they agreed to give him every assistance with access to people and documents and the proviso "without seeking to exert any editorial control".

He has not held back in the final volume which is without doubt a cornucopia of the good, the bad and the ugly of those days and nobody is spared!

Within the wider Games family there is a common understanding that a Games project is divided into two parts - the stage builders and those who organise the performance. This book is about those 'stage builders', the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and its stakeholders and less about the 'impresarios' the London Olympic and Paralympic Organising Committee (LOCOG).

Pure academics may be disappointed that there are fewer cross references even though there are still 50 pages to satisfy them.

The narrative is very readable, perhaps surprisingly so for the subject matter. This means that once started, this is a book which is difficult to put down.

Perhaps this is an understandable comment from this reviewer, who could be described as 'a participant observer', a bit player between 2003 and 2013 and but rarely with a seat at the table of the main characters.

This excellent account gives the same *deja vu* sensation that is obtained when watching a big blockbuster film for the first time and then reading the book it was based on. . You know the characters intimately, the storyline/plot and the headlines of much of the action. But you still get that 'Ah' moment as a revelation explains the something unexplained which had caused head-scratching in the past.

All the heroes are there. Organising Committee Chairman Lord Coe is joined in a roll of honour by Tony Blair, British Prime Minister at the time of the bid, ODA officials David Higgins, Dennis Hone, and John Armitt, London Mayor Ken Livingstone, Richard Sumray, mayor's nominee to the Olympic stakeholder and Neale Coleman.

There also "villains" but, you will need to read the book to identify those. Their identities soon become obvious.

Then there are a few super-heroes, any action-packed tale needs those.

Alison Nimmo could have been a co-writer given the extent of her justifiable contributions. She was the only main ODA Director who worked extensively on the Bid with LOCOG. She had a real understanding of the challenges facing 'the other side, sometimes referred to as the dark side' and the time scales that were involved. Her empathy for LOCOG was invaluable and contributed enormously to the success of the Park project and 2012 overall.

The super-superhero is the late Tessa Jowell who was Minister for the Olympics during the time of the Labour Government and in the formative years of the bid.

Without her none of 2012 would have happened. Without Tessa that 2012 journey would have been so much more gruesome: there would have been more metaphorical casualties in Stratford and Westminster. She brought together those who would not otherwise have been prepared to cooperate.

Boris Johnson became London Mayor in 2008 as much of the work was already nearing completion.

Hill does not mince his words at the end of Chapter 13 in his assessment of the aptitude of the new Mayor of London to replace the passionate Livingstone.

At the workforce end-of-Games celebration, Seb Coe pointed out (in paraphrase) how many of the uninvolved, those that tinkered at the edge or even the full-on doom & gloom merchants of the idea of a London Games were now joining the long line of self-congratulators for their contribution!

There are many personal incidents that sit alongside some of the narrative which inevitably are not highlighted

It would be a waste of some lines here not to make reference to one that's not in this laudable account.

In Chapter 9 Hill writes about the 7th July 2005, and quotes in full Livingstone's address to the Press corps outside the elevator of the Bid team's hotel in Singapore on that eventful and tumultuous day.

It was the day after London was awarded the 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games but also the day Londoners and others died at the hands of that inhuman terror attack.

Ken's speech was Churchillian! This reviewer was there 'in the moment' having coincidentally entered that lift at a higher floor, only to find it packed with Ken's entourage by the time it reached the ground floor.

There was no way for anyone to leave the lift as the foyer was packed with the media. Ken gave his speech and ignoring the barrage of questions, one of his aides pressed the 'UP' button and the elevator took off. Within seconds the aide pressed the emergency stop button as Ken sank to his haunches and started to weep! We all stood around quietly for a few minutes until the 'UP' button was pressed again.

In those few moments it was possible to grasp with total clarity what London, its people and the Games meant even to this hardened politician. Politician, yes but also just a man whose emotional commitment was rarely seen and who deserved better at the hands of the Establishment for his critical contributions.

Olympic Park is a must read for those studying the dynamics of organising such multi-sports events and for the rest of us in the "I was there!" community, it reminds us of the culmination of everyone's efforts from Government to volunteers to spectators in the summer of 2012.

Film Review

Israel Swings for Gold

Ironbound Films

Seth Kramer, Daniel A. Miller, Jeremy Newberger

Language: English

77 minutes

Reviewed by Nicholas Wolaver

Six national baseball teams qualified for Tokyo 2020, but only one starred in an award-winning feature documentary before their first pitch at Yokohama Stadium in Japan.

"Israel Swings For Gold" details the story of the first Israeli baseball team to play Olympic baseball.

The film had its worldwide premiere at the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival on 11 February, the 77-minute



motion picture features a triple-play of strong editing, solid writing and a crowd-pleasing mix of humour and drama. It spans Israeli Olympic entries from 1972 to the present and features baseball's return for the Games of the XXXII Olympiad and the slow and steady rise of the sport's popularity in Israel.

Billed as a sequel to the award-winning 2017 documentary "Heading Home – The Tale of Team Israel" about the improbable rise of the team's quest to play at that year's World Baseball Classic, "Israel Swings For Gold" takes up the story 2018, long before anyone could predict the impact of COVID-19.

Viewers learn of the results achieved by the team qualification, the audience learns of the team's qualification results for Tokyo and of numerous hurdles faced and cleared by the Israel team early 2020.

Camera crews had followed the pre-pandemic qualifiers at which the team had encountered anti Israeli protesters.

The producers also explained the way footage had been gathered for the film at the Olympics themselves.

"With no media allowed in Tokyo's Olympic Village, the players were given cameras to record their own experiences," producers explained.

Once inside the Village "they discover a complete absence of the goodwill [the Games are] intended to promote." Special security measures were place for the Israeli team as they have been ever since the Munich Massacre of 1972. However they "provide no shelter from anti-Semitism" and sadly "players [got] the cold shoulder from fellow athletes."

Directed by Seth Kramer, Daniel A. Miller and Jeremy Newberger with editing by Kramer and Miller as writer, the film successfully juxtaposes the sombre drama of the modern realities and Munich survivor stories with a wealth of humour and lighter moments showcasing the Olympians' amateur footage. Cheery antics unintentionally turned to serious repercussions, for instance, when a video of players jumping on a recyclable cardboard Olympic Village bed went viral, yielding a short-lived burst of international Games-time outrage.

At the trio of premiere screenings in Atlanta, audiences quickly rallied behind the players on their historic journey while relating to cameos from family members.

These included the mother of U. S. Minor League pitcher Alex Katz, whom she proudly cheered on as "Smart Alex" in several scenes including his naturalization and Aliyah process to attain dual USA-Israel citizenship.

Viewers are also treated to a brief history of Israel's fledgling baseball association that, thanks in part to the Olympic berth, is now poised to start hosting international competitions as early as 2025. The film also portrays the power of sportsmanship and how the Israeli players grew personally and professionally as Olympians.

The production company Ironbound Films and distributor Menemsha Films are expecting "Israel Swings For Gold" to be screened internationally later in the year.



A Century of Olympic Anniversaries

Although not an Olympic year, there are still many significant anniversaries to be celebrated in 2023.

1923 | 100 years

The IOC session was held in Rome from April 7 to 12. During the session, Los Angeles was chosen as the host city for the 1932 Olympic Games. (for more details see the back cover)

1933 | 90 years

The IOC session in Vienna was held from June 7–9 in Vienna. This was the first since Hitler had been elected German chancellor so IOC members discussed implications for the 1936 Berlin Games. The German delegation led by Organising Committee President Theodore Lewald gave an undertaking that all Olympic regulations would be observed and that “in principle” Jewish athletes would not be excluded from the Games. Garmisch-Partenkirchen was confirmed as Winter Olympic venue for 1936.

1948 | 75 years

After a 12 year hiatus because of the war, the Olympic Flame burned once again. Both host cities were chosen by postal vote. St Moritz hosted the Winter Games from January 30 to February 8. The resort had been chosen because all the installations were still in working order from when they had previously hosted the Games in 1928. The Summer Games were opened on July 29 which proved a suitably if uncharacteristic scorching day at Wembley Stadium. They were dubbed “Austerity Games” because rationing was still in force. Dutch sprinter Fanny Blankers-Koen was considered the star performer. She won four gold medals.

1953 | 70 years

The IOC session was held in Mexico City from April 17–21. A busy agenda included reports on preparations for the 1956 Games in Melbourne and Cortina D’Ampezzo and also discussion on the question of East Germany and China.

1963 | 60 years

In June, the Hellenic Olympic Committee presented a replica of the stele at Olympia to the city of Lausanne. This was to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Pierre de Coubertin. This was placed in the grounds of the Chateau of Mon Repos which was then IOC headquarters. From October 16–20 the IOC session met in Baden Baden. Mexico City was chosen to host the 1968 Olympics. It achieved a majority 30 votes to defeat Detroit 14, Lyon 12 and Buenos Aires with two votes.



John Mark ignited the Olympic cauldron at Wembley 75 years ago

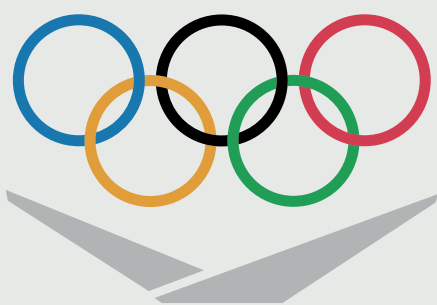
Picture JOH Archive



In 1963 a replica of the Stele at Olympia was presented to the city of Lausanne by the Hellenic Olympic Committee to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Coubertin's birth

Picture JOH Archive

SPORT FOR A WORLD OF PEACE



OLYMPIC CONGRESS·VARNA'73

The Olympic Congress
in Varna was 50 years ago

Picture JQH Archive

1973 | 50 years

The IOC session held from the 5, 6, 7 October in the Bulgarian resort of Varna was accompanied by the first Olympic congress for over half a century. We will be marking the anniversary in the next Journal.

1983 | 40 years

An IOC session was held in India for the first time. It runs from 26 to 28 March in New Delhi, Mumbai is also scheduled to welcome the IOC later this year.

1993 | 30 years

The 100th session is held in Lausanne on 23 and 24 June to mark the anniversary of the founding of the IOC. It coincided with the official opening of the Olympic Museum at Quai d'Ouchy in Lausanne. The programme featured debates on the connection of art and culture with the Olympic movement. The session held in Monaco from 21–24 September was one of the most keenly awaited in years. This was because it featured the host city vote for the 2000 Olympics. Istanbul, Berlin and Manchester were eliminated before Sydney beat Beijing by 45 votes to 43 in the fourth round of voting.

1998 | 25 years

The Winter Olympics returned to Japanese soil in Nagano. The Games ran from 7 to 22 February. Midori Ito lit the cauldron in Nagano at the last Opening Ceremony held in daylight. The Games featured the entry of women's ice hockey, the introduction of snowboarding and the return to the programme of curling.

2003 | 20 years

The IOC session was held in Prague from 2–4 July. Three cities made presentations to host the 2010 Games. Salzburg were eliminated in the first round of voting. Vancouver was elected host city in the second round of voting. They polled 56 votes to beat Pyeongchang who had received 53.

2013 | 10 years

At an extraordinary session in Lausanne held in July 3, 4, the host city for the 2018 Youth Olympics was selected. Buenos Aires, Glasgow and Medellin were the candidate cities. Buenos Aires beat Medellin 49–39 in the second round of voting. The 125th IOC session was held in Buenos Aires on 7, 8, 9, 10 September. Tokyo was elected as host city for the 2020 Games. They beat Istanbul by 60 votes to 36 in the second round of voting. Madrid was eliminated in the first round of voting. There were six candidates for the IOC Presidency: Thomas Bach (GER) Sergey Bubka (UKR) Richard Carrion (PUR), Ser Miang Ng, (SGP) Denis Oswald (SUI) and Ching-Kuo Wu (TPE). Bach was elected IOC President in the second round of voting after polling 49 votes which gave him an overall majority.



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100 years ago at their session in Rome, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) awarded the 1932 Olympic Games to the city of Los Angeles. Construction of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum had begun in December 1921 and was completed in May 1923, shortly after William May Garland made his pitch to the IOC.

"The Coliseum is the most stupendous stadium ever erected," said the Los Angeles Times. The design of the stadium included a distinctive "Peristyle" accorded protected status throughout subsequent renovations and now has a display honouring many great personalities in Olympic sport including de Coubertin.

The Coliseum was described by de Coubertin as a "powerful trump" indicative of the progress of Olympic preparations in Los Angeles, "which represented an invaluable pledge of success." The stadium hosted the Games in 1932 and 1984 and is also to be used in 2028.

